

THE LITERARY GAZETTE;

AND

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences, &c.

No. 1201.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1840.

PRICE 8d.
Stamped Edition, 9d.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Observations on the Financial Position and Credit of such of the States of the North American Union as have Contracted Public Debts, &c. By Alexander Trotter, Esq. 8vo. pp. 456. London, 1839. Longman and Co.

A PUBLICATION of greater national interest than this volume, or one of more importance to thousands of individuals who have property invested in American funds, could not be offered to the consideration of the English people. Considering the vast amount of British capital at stake, it is quite astonishing how little the affairs, on the management and issue of which such vital consequences depend, are known and understood in this country. In a pamphlet lately published by Mr. Duer, an intelligent American, this is much and justly deplored; and he complains that no rational confidence, founded on a true knowledge and candid estimate of the condition, resources, and character of his country, has been reposed in the government or people of the United States. A blind and unreflecting confidence, he adds, is not required; but one which shall be the result of inquiry, and be at the same time prudent and discriminating. To enable us to arrive at these desirable results, the facts collected and clearly enounced by Mr. Trotter are most worthy of serious attention; and we are certain that no one can rise from the perusal of his work without having much of, if not all, the ignorance and prejudice which prevails on the subject dispelled.

The main points elucidated may be instanced from the title-page, viz. as "comprising an account of the manner in which the sums raised by each state have been applied, and a consideration of the probable effects of such application upon the general wealth and prosperity of the country." A map, shewing the railroads and canals which have been constructed, wholly or in part, out of state loans, together with the private railroads in connexion with them, further illustrates the subject, and helps much to its proper understanding.

Mr. Trotter's view of the credit of the federal government is highly favourable, but so far from considering the credits of the separate states as identical with this, or of equal value as compared one with another, he proceeds to demonstrate that they are very unequal and widely different in worth as public securities. The national banks of the United States (1st, from 1791 to 1811, and 2d from 1816 to 1836), it is contended, were of prodigious benefit to the country, and fully deserving of the trusts reposed in them. But when the charter of the last expired in 1836, and the corporation only received a charter from the State of Pennsylvania, thus ceasing to be a national establishment though it retained the name, the determined opposition of the President, carrying with it the sanction of the legislature, led to the disastrous consequences which are now seen and felt on every hand.

In a periodical like ours it would be impossible to enter upon the figures and details with which the author supports his arguments, or

go into the collateral questions involved in these of finance; such as the geographical features of the country, the tariff, the wars with the Indian tribes, the speculations in lands and territorial grants, the interference with deposits and the monetary system, overtrading, and other matters of like general and direct influence. We must be satisfied with putting together some of the leading information with which the book abounds, and leaving its more minute intelligence to be ascertained from its own pages. To begin:—

"The soil constitutes the chief source of the wealth of the United States. Nearly nine-tenths of the whole domestic exports are derived from its produce; and it is estimated that seven-tenths of the population are employed in agricultural pursuits. Cotton, tobacco, flour, rice, and sugar, form the most important items in these exports; for which the United States receive in exchange either the manufactures of the country they are sent to, or such few products of the soil as their own climate will not allow them to raise. The cultivation of these staple commodities is confined chiefly, as we have seen, to the southern States; and the growth of cotton is most extensive in those which border on the Mississippi and on the Gulf of Mexico. In these States, the growers of these different descriptions of produce, having little realised capital, are obliged to have recourse to the capital or credit of their wealthier neighbours for the means of raising their valuable crops. The growers of rice and tobacco depend chiefly on the southern Atlantic cities, while the cotton planters usually obtain advances for the purchase of their slaves and the improvement of their plantations from the merchants or factors of New Orleans, or other ports on the Gulf of Mexico. They are supplied with clothing for their slaves, and other necessary articles of consumption, on credit, by the smaller country traders, who procure them on a still longer credit from the merchants of the Atlantic cities."

The United States Bank, Mr. T. contends, was absolutely necessary for these operations, and when the deposits were withdrawn from it, all fell into confusion. It could aid industry no longer, and immense failures were the inevitable result. These in turn led to the suspension of specie payments by the banks, and to the present condition of American trade and credit in every separate state, the combined government having refused to make itself and the nation responsible to the creditors. We have, therefore, to look to the returns from public works, &c. on which the loans have been expended; to the banks, with their various proprietaries; and to certain auxiliary funds in the treasuries of these States, for the payment of interest on the sums which have been borrowed. The nature of the securities is widely different, as the States are connected in different degrees with their banks, and the public works are more or less productive. The revenues and expenditure of the States also form a very essential item in these calculations. Thus, for example, we are told:—

"There appears to be more realised wealth

in Massachusetts, compared with the population, than in any other state of the Union,* while the inhabitants are in possession of a most thriving trade. The shipping belonging to this State amounts to 470,388 tons, exceeding that of any other state, and constituting about one-fourth of the whole shipping of the United States."

Having shewn the relative situation of all the States, Mr. Trotter proceeds to say:—

"The statements in the last chapter exhibit in a strong light the impulse which the policy of the several States of the Union has given to the industry of the citizens, by raising funds, on the credit of the state, to be applied to works of public utility. At the end of the year 1835, the debts of the separate States already amounted in the aggregate to more than sixty millions of dollars, the greater part of which sum had been expended in a productive manner; between that time and the middle of 1838, an addition of no less than \$108,423,800 00 was either made to this amount, or authorised to be raised, and the sum since added is considerable, the aggregate amount of state debt now exceeding \$183,000,000 00. Of the amount raised or authorised from 1835 to 1838, about forty millions were appropriated to the establishment of banks, and about sixty-eight millions to works of internal improvement. As the average profits of banking in the United States considerably exceed the interest paid by the States on the bonds which they have issued in payment of their shares, or for the establishment of the banks in which they are interested, there will usually be found, in this source, a sufficient fund for the payment of the interest and final liquidation of the bonds raised for this purpose, if the banks are managed with common prudence; but an attentive consideration of the facts adduced can scarcely fail to shew the probability that many of the works undertaken by the States, to facilitate internal communication by means of canals and railroads, will fail to yield a revenue sufficient to keep the works in repair, and to pay the interest on the loans raised for their construction. In all these cases, as well as where the finances of the State, from being too much mixed up with banking institutions, and dependent upon them, may be deranged by injudicious management of the banks, auxiliary funds will be required to sustain the credit of the State; or, if these do not exist, recourse must be had to taxation. In the case even when auxiliary funds have been set apart, they are not, as we have seen, in all cases adequate to the required purpose; or, if ample at present, they are, in many instances, derived from sources which are in themselves uncertain. The time, therefore, will probably

* "The population of Massachusetts, according to the census of 1830, was 910,014, and the property of the state in the year was assessed at \$206,310,407 54. The population of the state of New York, according to the same census, was 1,918,636, and the real and personal property was assessed at \$316,118,296 00, being scarcely one half of its relative proportion. The State of New York has increased more rapidly in population than Massachusetts, and the rate of increase in property may also have been greater; but this difference is not nearly made up."

come, and seems now to be approaching, which is to determine whether, in case of a partial or total failure of the expectations of the projectors of the various schemes on which the States have entered, those states so circumstanced will be willing to uphold their credit by submitting to taxes levied for the express purpose of providing for engagements entered into by their legislatures, and whether they will be willing to go to the extent that may be necessary for this purpose."

Though on the whole favourable to the promise that the States will submit to taxation, to pay the interest of their loans, and fulfil their just engagements, Mr. Trotter expresses some apprehension from the effect of the continued and rapid strides of democratic principles all over the Union, and confesses that these may overthrow the wiser and better order of things which would sanctify every public contract. And he adds:—

"Should the States be obliged hereafter to have recourse to taxation to defray the interest on their loans, it will not, probably, be till the different undertakings for which the loans were raised will have been rendered unpopular by want of success; and, although it does not follow that the people, under these circumstances, will refuse to submit to the necessary sacrifice, their adhering to their engagements cannot be so confidently depended upon, as it might be if the legislative bodies were returned by classes more directly interested in the maintenance of the financial integrity of the States."

He concludes:—

"On a review of the whole subject, we have seen the conduct of the States collectively in respect of former loans, and their punctuality in discharging them: we have seen the physical condition of the country, and the well-founded prospects of still greater resources being derived hereafter from the improvement of the vast territory yet to be cultivated: we have seen their prudent manner of managing their affairs, both in the frugal expenditure in the civil government generally, and in the application of their loans; and in a country in which the population so rapidly increases, it must be borne in mind, that if recourse must be had to taxation to defray the interest on their debts, the greater the number to assist in paying it, the lighter will be the burden upon each: we have seen, lastly, the general enterprising and industrious character of the people. Such are good ingredients towards the establishment of national credit; and a considerable degree of confidence is due on these grounds to the engagements of the States generally. In the case of the northern Atlantic States, Massachusetts and New York may be looked upon as entitled to the highest place in the scale. We have here realised wealth, an extensive trade, old-established institutions, and a people to whom the general good character given to the citizens of the States more particularly applies. In instituting a comparison between the newer northern and the southern States, it may, perhaps, be affirmed that, although the latter are richer, and possess more present means of meeting their engagements, the northern States contain the elements of a more enduring prosperity."

Before we lay down our pen we may mention, which we do with some degree of self-gratulation, that one of the safest banks in America is the Planters' Bank of Louisiana, established on principles strenuously upheld in a series of papers in the *Literary Gazette* for 1826-7, as a scheme for remodelling the cur-

rency of Great Britain, on issues controlled by government, and trebly secured on real property. In New York, also, the same system has been adopted; and when we look back to our efforts in this cause, every new crisis in our finances, and every increase of distress in the country, fills us with more and more regret that, enamoured with their own favourite theories, those in power and authority utterly disregarded our humble representations. It is not a little remarkable that "The Times" newspaper (so conversant with business of the kind), which at that period opposed our views, has since seen reason to modify its opinions, and, in a recent article, absolutely to recommend the spirit of our plan as a remedy for the manufacturing, agricultural, and commercial evils which press upon the industry and resources of the country. Sure we are that a circulating medium such as we have advocated would remove every misery that weighs upon the kingdom, and spread comfort and contentment where there is now nothing but wretchedness and Chartism.

The Letters of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, including numerous Letters now First Published from the Original Manuscripts. In 6 vols. Vol. I. (1735-1745.) 8vo. pp. 498. London, 1840. Bentley.

A MORE complete edition of the correspondence of this "prince of epistolary writers" cannot but be welcome to the public. There is nothing quite like these letters in our language, and, with only the due allowance for position and prejudices, they may well be received as the best brief chronicles of the stirring period to which they relate, from 1735 to 1797! So much has been remarked upon them, as various portions have appeared at various times, that it would be an impertinent waste of words to repeat the criticisms with which the press has teemed; and, indeed, till the future volumes produce any thing of interesting novelty, we should be content to let the others speak for themselves.

The first of the series has only a preface, and reminiscences of the courts of George I. and II., which are new. The latter were written when Walpole was an old man, in 1788, for the amusement of his young friends, Miss Mary and Miss Agnes Berry; and though they smack of the garrulity of age, and are partially but the recollections of hearsay, yet they are very characteristic of the writer, and consequently very amusing. Of this, and of the general order of the publication, we shall enable our readers to judge, though it will not be needed to do so by copying more than a few brief extracts. The preface states:—

"The letters of Horace Walpole, earl of Orford, as hitherto published, have consisted of, 1. The letters contained in the quarto edition of his works, published in the year 1798; 2. His letters to George Montagu, Esq., from 1736 to 1770, which formed one quarto volume, published in 1818; 3. His letters to the Rev. William Cole and others, from 1745 to 1782, published in the same form and year; 4. His letters to the Earl of Hertford, during his lordship's embassy to Paris, and also to the Rev. Henry Zouch, which appeared in quarto, in 1825; and, 5. His letters to Sir Horace Mann, British envoy at the court of Tuscany, from 1741 to 1760, first published in 1833, in three volumes octavo, from the originals in the possession of the Earl of Waldegrave, edited by Lord Dover, with an original memoir of the author. To the above are now added several hundred letters, which have

hitherto existed only in manuscript, or made their appearance singly and incidentally in other works. In this new collection, besides the letters to Miss Berry, are some to the Hon. H. S. Conway, and John Chute, Esq., omitted in former editions; and many to Lady Suffolk, his brother-in-law, Charles Churchill, Esq., Captain Jephson, Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, the Earl of Buchan, the Earl of Charlemont, Mr. Gibbon, Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, George Hardinge, Esq., Mr. Pinkerton, and other distinguished characters. The letters to the Rev. William Cole have been carefully examined with the originals, and many explanatory notes added, from the manuscript collections of that indefatigable antiquary, deposited in the British Museum."

The "Reminiscences" which follow a transcript of the late amiable Lord Dover's excellent memoir of Walpole, fill about seventy pages, and we copy from their court scandals and piquant anecdotes the following examples:—

"Observe," the writer tells his fair friends, "observe, I promise no more than to begin; for I not only cannot answer that I shall have patience to continue, but my memory is still so fresh, or rather so retentive of trifles which first made impression on it, that it is very possible my life (turned of seventy-one) may be exhausted before my stock of remembrances; especially as I am sensible of the garrulity of old age, and of its eagerness of relating whatever it recollects, whether of moment or not. Thus, while I fancy I am complying with you, I may only be indulging myself, and consequently may wander into many digressions for which you will not care a straw, and which may intercept the completion of my design. Patience, therefore, young ladies; and if you coin an old gentleman into narratives, you must expect a good deal of alloy. I engage for no method, no regularity, no polish. My narrative will probably resemble siege-pieces, which are struck of any promiscuous metals; and, though they bear the impress of some sovereign's name, only serve to quiet the garrison for the moment, and afterwards are merely hoarded by collectors and virtuosos, who think their series not complete, unless they have even the coins of base metal of every reign. *

"As I was (he continues) the youngest by eleven years of Sir Robert Walpole's children by his first wife, and was extremely weak and delicate, as you see me still, though with no constitutional complaint till I had the gout after forty, and as my two sisters were consumptive, and died of consumptions, the supposed necessary care of me (and I have overheard persons saying, 'That child cannot possibly live') so engrossed the attention of my mother, that compassion and tenderness soon became extreme fondness; and as the infinite good nature of my father never thwarted any of his children, he suffered me to be too much indulged, and permitted her to gratify the first vehement inclination that ever I expressed; and which, as I have never since felt any enthusiasm for royal persons, I must suppose that the female attendants in the family must have put into my head—to long to see the king. This childish caprice was so strong, that my mother solicited the Duchess of Kendal to obtain for me the honour of kissing his majesty's hand before he set out for Hanover. A favour so unusual to be asked for a boy of ten years old was still too slight to be refused to the wife of the first minister for her darling child; yet not being proper to be made a pre-

cedent, it was settled to be in private, and at night. Accordingly, the night but one before the king began his last journey, my mother carried me at ten at night to the apartment of the Countess of Walsingham, on the ground-floor, towards the garden at St. James's, which opened into that of her aunt the Duchess of Kendal's: apartments occupied by George II. after his queen's death, and by his successive mistresses, the Countesses of Suffolk and Yarmouth. Notice being given that the king was come down to supper, Lady Walsingham took me alone into the duchess' ante-room, where we found alone the king and her. I knelt down and kissed his hand. He said a few words to me, and my conductress led me back to my mother. The person of the king is as perfect in my memory as if I saw him but yesterday. It was that of an elderly man, rather pale, and exactly like his pictures and coins; not tall; of an aspect rather good than august; with a dark tie-wig, a plain coat, waistcoat, and breeches of snuff-coloured cloth, with stockings of the same colour, and a blue ribbon over all. So entirely was he my object, that I do not believe I once looked at the duchess; but as I could not avoid seeing her on entering the room, I remember that just beyond his majesty stood a very tall, lean, ill-favoured, old lady; but I did not retain the least idea of her features, nor know what the colour of her dress was."

The death of the first George immediately after this introduces us to the second, and with him to the annexed entertaining traits:

"It was an instance of Sir Robert's singular fortune, or evidence of his talents, that he not only preserved his power under two successive monarchs, but in spite of the efforts of both their mistresses to remove him. It was perhaps still more remarkable, and an instance unparalleled, that Sir Robert governed George the First in Latin, the king not speaking English, and his minister no German, nor even French. It was much talked of, that Sir Robert, detecting one of the Hanoverian ministers in some trick or falsehood before the king's face, had the firmness to say to the German, 'Mentiris, impudentissime!' The good-natured monarch only laughed, as he often did when Sir Robert complained to him of his Hanoverians selling places, nor would be persuaded that it was not the practice of the English court; and which an incident must have planted in his mind with no favourable impression of English disinterestedness. 'This is a strange country!' said his majesty; 'the first morning after my arrival at St. James's, I looked out of the window, and saw a park with walks, a canal, &c. which they told me were mine. The next day, Lord Chetwynd, the ranger of my park, sent me a fine brace of carp out of my canal; and I was told I must give five guineas to Lord Chetwynd's servant for bringing me my own carp out of my own canal in my own park!'"

Going back in his desultory manner, Walpole also relates the following of the preceding king:

"Before I quit King George I., I will relate a story very expressive of his good-humoured presence of mind. On one of his journeys to Hanover his coach broke. At a distance in view was a chateau of a considerable German nobleman. The king sent to borrow assistance. The possessor came, conveyed the king to his house, and begged the honour of his majesty's accepting a dinner while his carriage was repairing; and, while the dinner

was preparing, begged leave to amuse his majesty with a collection of pictures which he had formed in several tours to Italy. But what did the king see in one of the rooms but an unknown portrait of a person in the robes and with the regalia of the sovereigns of Great Britain! George asked whom it represented. The nobleman replied, with much diffident but decent respect, that in various journeys to Rome he had been acquainted with the Chevalier de St. George, who had done him the honour of sending him that picture. 'Upon my word,' said the king instantly, 'it is very like to the family.' It was impossible to remove the embarrassment of the proprietor with more good breeding."

And with this we conclude our short review, leaving all the rest about these monarchs, their ministers, their mistresses, their courtiers, and their concerns, to be acquired from the narrative which has furnished us with these morceaux.

A Disquisition on the Scene, Origin, Date, &c. &c. of Shakspeare's "Tempest." In a Letter to Benjamin Heywood Bright, Esq., from the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A. 8vo. pp. 151. London, 1839. Printed by Whittingham. (One hundred copies only printed).

MR. HUNTER informs his correspondent, that having about two years ago announced, at the close of a book of antiquarian literature, the speedy publication of a work to be entitled "New Illustrations of the Life, Studies, and Writings of Shakspeare," he felt he had made a somewhat ambitious promise, which he was anxious honestly to perform. He found, however, that he had counted without his host—the booksellers, and instead of completing the task which he had meditated, he was obliged to content himself with offering *Illustrations of the Tempest*, only as a specimen of what his book would have been; just as Johnson gave his "Notes on Macbeth," as a specimen of his intended annotation on the whole of the plays. He has thrown his materials into the shape of a letter—always a most inconvenient form for discussing critical questions—and in this essay rendered more unapt, by a distribution into chapters. The four opening pages, and many others, are in fact of no greater value than affording scope for compliment to the Shaksperian zeal and knowledge of the author's correspondent.

In the folio of Hemingay and Condele, in which "The Tempest" originally appeared, it is the first play of the collection. Why it is so placed can only be matter of conjecture; for the player-editors do not appear to have been guided by any principle of arrangement. Mr. Hunter is an advocate for the early composition of the play, but, in general, it is considered to be among the latest; Malone assigning it, in his "Essay on the Chronological Order of Shakespeare's Plays," to the year 1611; and Chalmers, in his review of that Essay, to 1613. As there is no external information on the subject, its date must be ascertained by internal evidence, and that is but scanty. We have only the following points to guide us.—I. The mention of the "still-vex'd Bermoothes." II. Gonzalez's plan of a Commonwealth, given in the first scene of the second act, which is evidently taken, almost *verbatim*, from John Florio's translation of Montaigne's Essays. III. The similarity of the celebrated lines, "The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces," &c., to a stanza in Lord Sterline's tragedy of "Darius," one of which passages seems to have suggested the other. IV. The names of Trinculo and Antonio, which are to be found likewise in the comedy of "Al-

bumazar." V. The allusion to the exhibition of a dead Indian in England. To these may be added, that Ben Jonson, in his prologue to "Every Man in his Humour," when he sneers, among other things, at "the tempestuous drum" of rival dramatists, is supposed to have "The Tempest," which he elsewhere, in his "Introduction to Bartholomew Fair," calls a drollery, in his mind: and that a great storm, which in the October, November, and December of 1612, happened in this country, and in the words of Stowe, "did exceeding great damage, with extreme shipwreck, throughout the ocean," may have induced Shakspeare to give the name of "The Tempest" to his play.

I. Some accounts of the Bermudas had been published before 1600; but they were more prominently brought to public attention by the wreck of Sir George Somers, and Sir Thomas Gates, in the Bermudean Seas in 1609, of which Sil. Jourdan published a narrative in 1610. In Hackluyt will be found the narratives of the shipwreck of Henry May in these seas, in 1595, and of Sir Robert Dudley's voyage towards the Bermudas in quest of the Havanna fleet, which he "found not, but foul weather enough to scatter many fleets." In Sir Walter Raleigh's "Discovery of Guiana," published in 1596, he describes the Bermudas as "a hellish sea for thunder, lightning, and storms." The Bermudas, therefore, and their tempestuous character, were known before the publication of Jourdan's pamphlet. The evidence is trifling on either side, but it appears more probable that Shakspeare applied the epithet "still-vex'd" to these stormy seas, after the greater notoriety of their character conferred upon them by the shipwreck of Somers and Gates, i. e. after 1610.

II. The allusion to Florio is unquestionable. The identical phraseology of the passages prohibits us from thinking that Shakspeare had it from the original Montaigne,—

"No kind of traffic
Would I admit; no name of magistrate;
Letters should not be known; riches, poverty,
And use of service none; no contract, succession,
Bourn, bound of land, tillth, vineyard, none;
No use of metal, corn, or stone, or oil;
No occupation; all men idle, all—"

is plainly from Florio's, "It is a nation, I would answer Plato, that hath no kind of traffic, no knowledge of letters, no intelligence of numbers, no name of magistrate, nor of political superiority; no use of service, of riches, or of poverty; no contracts, no successions, no dividends; no occupation but idle," &c. We know, also, that Shakspeare had read the book, for a copy of it has been recently discovered, with his name written in it with his own hand. This volume which is described in the "Archæologia" by Sir Frederick Madden, vol. xxiii. pp. 112, 123, was bought by the British Museum for 120*s*, being, as Mr. Hunter truly observes (p. 95), "without the autograph, worth about fifteen shillings." The date of the book is 1603: how, then, could "The Tempest," which thus borrows from it, have appeared in 1596, according to Mr. Hunter's theory? We shall leave it to himself to answer:—

"There are two ways of evading this difficulty. First, though we know of no earlier edition of this translation (and it is improbable that there is any earlier edition of it as a whole), it is by no means improbable that a portion of it may have appeared some years before in one of the smaller tracts of Florio, of which there were many, more perhaps than are now known to exist; and in that portion of it the passage in question may have occurred,

Or, secondly, this speech of Gonzalo's may have been added after the original appearance of the play, as there is reason to think was the practice of Shakspere. Alterations he certainly made from time to time."

Some passages in other plays are cited as instances of change:—

"It might, then, be said that this passage, in which we have words of Florio, was superinduced some time after the play was publicly performed. But I propose to meet the difficulty, and not to evade it. It is true that no printed edition of this translation, or of any part of it, is known of an earlier date than 1603. But it is also certain that the translation was made several years before; for as early as 1599, license was granted to Edward Blount for the printing of it. And for proof that this is not the earliest period to which we can trace this translation, I have only to refer you to the Essays of Sir William Cornwallis, where you will find not only that the translation was made, but that it was divulged before that time. The first edition of these Essays, indeed, bears date only in 1600; but they were written some time before, for Henry Olney, a friend of the author, under whose care they were printed, assigns as the reason for publishing an authentic edition, that copies were in so many hands, there was danger lest the work might be printed by some dishonest person surreptitiously. How much time is to be allowed for this multiplication of copies in manuscript, and for the original composition of the Essays, it is impossible to estimate with much exactness; but it may fairly be allowed to conjecture that three or four years may have passed, which brings us near to the date we have assigned to 'The Tempest.' But in what year soever Cornwallis wrote his Essays, in or before that year had Florio made his translation of Montaigne. For thus writes the author:— 'For profitable recreation that noble French knight, the Lord de Montaigne, is most excellent; whom, though I have not been so much beholding to the French as to see in his original, yet divers of his pieces I have seen translated, they that understand both languages say very well done; and I am able to say (if you will take the word of ignorance), translated into a style admitting a few idle words as our language will endure. It is well fitted in this new garment, and Montaigne speaks now good English. It is done by a fellow less beholding to nature for his fortune than wit, yet lesser for his face than his fortune: the truth is, he looks more like a good fellow than a wise man; and yet he is wise beyond either his fortune or education.' Florio's profession was that of a French and Italian master, in which he was the most eminent man of his time; and the portions of Montaigne in an English translation, to which Cornwallis alludes, may be supposed, with likelihood enough, to have been prepared by him for the use of his scholars. But being seen by Cornwallis, is it too violent a presumption that they may have been seen by Shakspere also, especially as the Florios—for there were two, Michael-Angelo and John,—were noticed by the Herberts from the time when Michael-Angelo dedicated a work, now in manuscript in the Public Library at Cambridge, to Henry, earl of Pembroke, in 1553, to the time of the death of John Florio, in 1625, who leaves his corrections of the Italian dictionary published by him, to William, earl of Pembroke, whose connexion with Shakspere is so remarkable a circumstance in the history of both? Shakspere is even brought into imme-

diate connexion with Florio some time before the date which I have assigned to 'The Tempest.' I shall not repeat the argument of Bishop Warburton to prove that Florio is ridiculed in the 'Love's Labours Lost,' under the character of Holofernes, nor enter now into the question whether he is so or no. But I would observe, that, supposing it was the intention of Shakspere, for whatever reason, and it must have been a reason arising in the private relations between them, to hold up Florio to ridicule in that play; it is done, not in the character of Holofernes, the schoolmaster, taken singly, but Holofernes and Armado together make up John Florio. The proofs are indeed pregnant; for Florio, though undoubtedly he deserved well of the country that adopted him, and was perhaps a main instrument in introducing Italian writers to the notice of Englishmen, which did so much to raise the character of our literature and poetry, was in truth a somewhat vain, pedantic, and thrasional person. However, without going further into this question, I think I have said sufficient to shew that Shakspere may not improbably have seen portions of Florio's Montaigne in 1596."

We cannot see the pregnancy of these proofs. Shakspere might have interpolated this passage in a later edition; he must, then, have interpolated the whole scene, which, without it, is very barren. It might have appeared in some unheard-of earlier work of Florio, which is, indeed, highly improbable. It might have been seen by Shakspere in manuscript; for this sagacious reason, that as it had been shewn to the author's friends and admirers, it was likely that Shakspere, who holds him up to personal ridicule (there is no doubt whatever that Florio is the prototype of Holofernes), was also favoured with a "private view." In spite, therefore, of these pregnant proofs, we look upon the passage as helping to fix the composition of "The Tempest" after 1603.

III. The "Darius" of the Earl of Sterline appeared in 1603. It is needless to quote Prospero's famous verses, or to point out their resemblance to the following from the third act of "Darius":—

"Let Greatness of her glassy sceptre vaunt,
Not sceptres; no, but reeds, soon bruised, soon broken,
And let this worldly pomp our wits enchant,
All fates, and scarcely leaves behind a token.
Those golden palaces, those gorgeous halls,
With furniture superfluously fair,
Those stately courts, those sky-encountering walls,
Evansh all like vapours in the air."

This affords us but little help. It only proves, that if "The Tempest" were written in 1596, Lord Sterline followed Shakspere—if, after 1603, that Shakspere imitated Lord Sterline—and, therefore, leaves the question as it was. It is more likely, however, that Shakspere, who made no scruple of appropriating to himself the ideas or the verses of minor dramatists, should have taken, with Lord Sterline, his not unusual liberty, than that Lord Sterline should have ventured upon the bold step of palpably imitating one of the most famous passages in the poetry of our language.

IV. The same may be said of the names of Trinculo and Antonio occurring in "Albemarz." That comedy was printed in 1619, but is supposed by Dryden to have appeared some years before—not, however, any thing so far back as 1596. It is but a slight circumstance after all; but, as we have just said, it is more probable that Shakspere should have used what he found in the less known dramatist, than the reverse.

V. The Dead Indian.—Hear Mr. Hunter:—

"I must now dispose of Mr. Chalmers's dead

Indian. When Trinculo, in ridicule of the passion of Englishmen for seeing sights shewn to them by travellers, says, 'When they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a dead Indian,' Mr. Chalmers tells us that he alludes to a circumstance which occurred as late as the year 1611. In that year the Earl of Southampton and Sir Francis Gorges brought to England five Indians, four of whom left England alive some time after. Mr. Chalmers adds, 'We may easily suppose of the other that he died in London, and was exhibited for a show.' Undoubtedly we may: but evidence exists that an Indian died in London many years before, and, not indeed, that his body was exhibited for a show, but that a wax model of his body was made after his death, no doubt for the purpose of being publicly exhibited. This unfortunate being, the account of whose capture cannot be read without a strong feeling of indignation against so unfeeling a use of that higher power which civilisation gives, was brought to England by Frobisher, in 1577. In the accounts of the expenses of that voyage, which have been printed by the late commissioners on the public records, whose works assist in inquiries in the grander subjects of historical research, and in the lighter literature of such a work as this, the following entry occurs:—"Paid William Cure, Ducheman, graver, for making a mould of hard earth of the Tartar man's image, 'to be cast in wax.' The body itself was embalmed and deposited in a coffin."

If the Indian died in 1577, he must have been a stale subject, indeed, in 1596; and Shakspere would not have failed to notice his representation in wax. Chalmers's Indian is far more probable.

VI. Ben Jonson's Prologue to "Every Man in his Humour" is pressed into Mr. Hunter's service very earnestly:—

"There is no room (he says) to question that 'Every Man in his Humour,' was his first play; and the notice of it in Henslow's book, in November 1596, shews that it was then in existence. This play is introduced by a prologue, in which, as it seems to me, there is much matter bearing on the present inquiry. Mr. Gifford, indeed, contends that there is no sufficient evidence that Jonson alluded to Shakspere, in the satiric strokes with which that prologue abounds. I, on the contrary part, am ready to maintain, that it is quite incredible that there should be so many strokes by which Shakspere is hit, and yet that not one of them should be intended to fall upon him: and that it is also incredible, that there should be in that prologue so many strokes which admit of being interpreted as blows aimed at 'The Tempest' in particular, and yet that none of them were intended for it. Especially, as it is evident that Jonson began his dramatic career with the intention of reforming the English stage, and bringing the English drama nearer to the models of antiquity. Jonson set up in his own mind Plautus as the writer to be followed in comedy, and Seneca in tragedy. He was, therefore, by his principles bound to seek to banish from the stage the kind of plays with which Shakspere was at that period delighting the public, the histories and the romantic dramas, and to endeavour to substitute for them comedies, in which the humours of men were exhibited as men then were, or stately tragedies, with no mixture of what is comic. Nor, whatever may be thought of the bearing of this prologue, can it be denied that Jonson does pointedly, in another place,

direct his satire against this very play of 'The Tempest.' 'Such as beget Tales, Tempests, and such like drolleries.'

He then proceeds to express his disbelief of the ridiculous notion that Jonson was actuated by any mean passions of envy or jealousy against Shakspere:—

"The flouts and girds which one dramatist is found casting out against another, may often be referred to the intention of keeping up the spirit of the theatre, or may be likened to the sarcasms heard at the bar passing between persons who, when they have left the court, are the best friends imaginable. When Jonson wrote the prologue which has led to these observations, his play was to be produced at the theatre called the Rose, while 'The Tempest,' and the rest of Shakspere's plays, were exhibited by his own company at the Globe, and the theatre in the Black Friars. The language of the prologue may easily be interpreted thus, in perfect consistency with that good feeling which, I believe, to have ever existed between them: 'Our rivals at the other house are attempting impossibilities, or are degrading the stage by the introduction of masques and monsters. We mean to shew you, in the production of a new poet, what comedy ought to be, and what we design to make it.' This, in addition to the sober judgment of Jonson, who was doubtless sincere in his preference of the classical to the romantic drama; for that, after all, was the question between them. But I must no longer withhold from you the prologue itself, and the remarks which I have to make upon it:—

Though need make many poets, and some such
As art and nature have not bettered much,
Yet ours for want hath not so loved the stage,
Or purchase your delight at such a rate,
As, for it, he himself must justly hate:
To make a child now swaddled, to proceed
Man, and then shoot up, in one beard and weed,
Past threescore years: or, with three rusty swords,
And help of some few foot-and-half-foot words,
Fight over York and Lancaster's long jars,
And in the trying-house bring wounds to scars.
He rather prays you will be pleased to see
One such to-day, as other plays should be;
Where neither chorus warbs you o'er the seas,
Nor breaking throne comes down the boys to please:
Nor nimble squilts is seen to make afraid.
The gentlest: nor round bullet heard
To say it thunders: nor tempestuous drum
Beats louder to tell you when the storm doth come.
But deeds and language, such as men do use,
And persons, such as Comedy would choose,
When she would shew an image of the times,
And sport with human follies, not with crimes.
Except we make them such, by loving still
Our popular errors, when we know they're ill.
I mean such errors as you'll all confess:
By laughing at them, they deserve no less:
Which when you heartily do, there's hope left then,
You, that have so graced monsters, may like men."

Neglect of the unities, the introduction of beings not human, the attempt at representations for which the theatres were inadequate, are the general points of attack. The special points are these: (1) The same play exhibiting a character in infancy and age: (2) The wars of York and Lancaster: (3) The removing the scene to a distant country by means of a chorus: (4) The descent of a breaking throne: (5) Thunder and lightning: (6) Monsters. Now, within the scope of these objections, Shakspere obviously stands; and the utmost that can be said by those who would defend Jonson from the charge of having here made an attack upon Shakspere is, that not he alone was within the scope of these objections, but that other dramatists stood so with him. But when of the special points of attack we find the three last in 'The Tempest,' it can hardly, I think, be reasonably doubted, that that particular play was in the view of Jonson

when he wrote the prologue. The 'Monster,' must be Caliban 'graced' as he has always been by the favour of the multitude, nor graced unworthily. The 'breaking throne,' is the throne of Juno, as she descends in the masque; the 'nimble squilts,' is the lightning during the storm, with which the play opens; and the 'tempestuous drum,' is the thunder which accompanied the lightning. But observe, I beg you, the word *tempestuous*:—

* Nor *tempestuous* drum

Rumbles, to tell you when the storm doth come: corresponding to the stage direction for the first scene of this play, as originally printed: 'A *tempestuous* noise of thunder and lightning heard.'

Unfortunately for all this reasoning, the breaking throne, and the thunder and lightning—and the monsters,* might apply to many another play—to 'Macbeth,' for instance, where, too, we have the drum very pointedly alluded to; and, besides, although "Every Man in his Humour" was produced in 1596, *this prologue was not published until 1610, when it first appeared in the folio edition of Jonson's works.* It was not published in 1601, for the play was then printed without it; and it is apparently written, not so much as a prologue to one particular comedy, as a defence of Jonson's whole course of dramatic writing. It is probable that it was written expressly for this edition of his collected works.

On the whole, then, we may conclude, that as the "storm-vedexed" of the Bermudas was brought under general notice in 1609 by the shipwreck of Somers (which gave them a name by which they were sometimes known, the Somers Islands), and the narrative of Jourdan, in 1610; as a remarkable storm called every one's attention to the subject of tempest in 1612; as Florio's book, which we may almost say is quoted in the play, appeared in 1603; as it seems improbable that Lord Sterline, in 1603, should borrow the verses, or the author of "Albumazar," some years before 1614, according to Dryden, say 1608, should adopt the names, of "The Tempest," and no improbability whatever existing in the contrary supposition, viz. that Shakspere borrowed from them; as it is likely that a dead Indian was an object of Cockney curiosity in 1611; and as Jonson's prologue, so far from originally appearing with the play to which it is prefixed, did not appear until twenty years after, viz. in 1616, when, if intended as a gird at Shakspere at all, it must be taken as a satire on his whole career then ended, beginning with his York and Lancaster plays, confessedly his earliest, and concluding with a fling at "The Tempest," which might, therefore, be looked on as the last in Jonson's catalogue—we hold to the opinion that it is among the latest of the plays. Into the controversy between Malone and Chalmers as to the dates 1611 or 1613, there is no necessity for entering. At all events, Mr. Hunter's chosen date, 1596, has nothing to recommend it.

In fact, he adduces but two points in its favour. After observing that Shakspere is fond of alluding to topics of the day, he asks, What was it that most engaged the attention of the people of England in the spring and summer of 1596? and answers that it "was the return of Sir Walter Raleigh and his companions from the expedition to Guiana, and the very extraordinary reports which they

* Monsters in Ben Jonson, however, appear to mean not such creatures as Caliban, but monstrous characters; his characters whose crimes, not whose human follies, as he says a few lines above, are brought upon the stage. Bloody plays were marvellous favourites with our ancestors.

made of what they had seen and heard. The expedition was performed in the year 1595; and early in 1596 appeared the pamphlet of Raleigh, in which he gave an account of what they had done, seen, and heard; a pamphlet which would excite wonder indeed, and would tempt curiosity, but which could not, I will venture to say, but make his judicious friends grieve. The very title is enough to condemn it, boastful and ridiculous: 'The Discovery of the large, rich, and beautiful Empire of Guiana, with a Relation of the Great and Golden City of Manoa (which the Spaniards call El Dorado), and the Provinces of Emeria, Arromaria, Amapaia, and other Countries, with their Rivers adjoining. Performed in the year 1595, by Sir Walter Raleigh, knight, Captain of Her Majesty's Guard, Lord Warden of the Stannaries, and Her Highness's Lieutenant - General of the County of Cornwall.' Such is the title which ushers us to a book stuffed with the most improbable reports, quite sufficient to bring the author within the class of travellers satirised in this play, who 'mistake the truth,' and deal in 'vouched rarities' which are 'beyond credit.' we shall soon shew that there are special points in which this pamphlet of Raleigh's is attacked; but, were there no such specialties, we should regard the general truth that there is so much ridicule in this play of travellers' wonders, of foreign plantations, new schemes of government, and the like, as no mean proof that it appeared at no great distance of time after this pamphlet, because there was no other book of travels which, in the time of Shakspere, excited so much the public attention as this, or which was so open to ridicule, and yet, in some points of view, so dangerously misleading. We do little justice to Shakspere if we regard him only as one who ministered to the public entertainment on the stage and in the closet. He ever looked, I believe, to the best welfare of his countrymen, and exerted himself to promote it, by correcting popular delusions, and diffusing just sentiments among them; and a book which held out the tempting prospect of unbounded wealth, which seemed to require only that a hand should be stretched out to grasp it, was a dangerous experiment on popular credulity, which it was worthy such a master-hand as Shakspere's to seek to counteract. Raleigh, too, was no favourite with Shakspere, or rather with the political party to which Shakspere belonged. Shakspere was of the Essex faction, to which his patron, the Earl of Southampton, was, for himself so unfortunately, attached. Shakspere's company represented the deposition of King Richard the Second, on the day before the insurrection, at the special request of Sir Gilly Meyrick. Shakspere has a beautiful compliment to Essex, in his 'King Henry the Fifth,' and a biting gird at Cecil, and possibly also at Mountjoy, in the 'Much Ado.' Is it, then, surprising that he should not omit such an opportunity of attacking Raleigh? But he does it fairly and honourably, in the manner of a dramatist, it is true, but not exaggerating Raleigh's faults and follies. He does not insinuate dishonesty of purpose. His satire is confined to the gross improbability of his statements: and, looking again at the pamphlet, which I happen to possess in the original edition, I see no reason to charge Raleigh, as Hume has done, with having circulated these delusive accounts with a fraudulent intention; but neither can I at all agree with Mr. Fraser Tyler in the estimate which he has taken of this tract. Raleigh seems to me to fall justly within the scope of Shakspere's

censure. I cannot find that he makes the distinction, of which Mr. Tytler speaks, between the things he saw and the things he heard, but has given to the things which he only heard the full weight of his own personal authority, or at least circulates them with the credit of his own full belief. Camden, the learned, the wise, the candid, and the just, whose fine character I can never contemplate but with the highest delight, has spoken of this tract in a manner which becomes his high reputation, and hints at the true source of the mistakes, 'the sanguine completion of Raleigh's own hopes and desires.' As 'The Tempest' did not appear till after the publication of Raleigh's pamphlet, Shakspere is not to be regarded as one of those of whom Raleigh, in his dedication to the lord admiral, so bitterly complains. But I have not yet given you the special proof that this tract of Raleigh's is the subject of Shakspere's ridicule in this play. Turn then to a speech of Gonzalo, in the third scene of the third act, in which these lines occur:

"Or that there were such men
Whose heads stood in their breasts? which now we find
Each putter out for live for one will bring us
Good warrant of."

Now, compare Raleigh: 'Next unto Arui, there are two rivers, Atoica and Caora, and on that branch which is called Caora are a nation of people whose heads appear not above their shoulders, which, though it may be thought a mere fable, yet, for mine own part, I am resolved it is true, because every child in the provinces of Arronais and Canuri affirm the same: they are called Ewaipenoma: they are reported to have their eyes in their shoulders, and their mouths in the middle of their breasts.' P. 70. There is more about them. He asserts, in another part of his book, his entire belief in the story; and in his enumeration of the several nations at p. 91, he writes seriously, thus: 'To the west of Caroli are divers nations of cannibals, and of those Ewaipenoma without heads.' The reader will judge whether the improbable parts of his narrative were not his own. Where was his anatomy? Where his philosophy? Shakspere alludes again to the 'men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders' in 'Othello'; and he returns to the attack upon Raleigh's discreditable pamphlet in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' which immediately succeeded 'The Tempest,' or at least appeared very soon after it: 'She is a region of Guiana, all gold and bountiful.'

* * *

An I then presuming beyond what the evidence justifies, in referring 'The Tempest,' not, with Mr. Malone, to 1611, or Mr. Chalmers, to 1613, but to the summer of 1598, when the excitement produced by Raleigh's publication was at its height?"

Never, certainly, was presumption raised upon slighter foundation. If this remarkable specialty of Gonzalo's slight allusion to the men whose heads stood in their breasts be sufficient to prove that 'The Tempest' followed hard upon Sir Walter Raleigh's 'Discovery of Guiana,' we have stronger reason for assigning Othello's more detailed description of the marvels of his travels' history to the same date. But in many of the plays travellers' stories are made the object of ridicule; and the new schemes of government laughed at by Gonzalo and his companions refer not to Raleigh, but to Florio or Montaigne. It is, besides, a somewhat strange way of correcting popular delusions to exhibit a scene of wonders performed by the magic of Prospero in a desert isle, peopled almost exclusively by spirits of the air; and his belief in the power of Shakspere

must be unbounded, who imagines that the airy poetry of 'The Tempest' was intended to convey political instruction, or that it contributed to counteract the spirit of adventure among his contemporaries. There is something absolutely droll in Mr. Hunter's assuring us that Shakspere's satire on Raleigh was so fair and honourable that he merely attacks Sir Walter's faults and follies, and does not insinuate dishonesty of purpose. This, no doubt, is exceedingly kind on the part of the poet,—but the main question is, Did he attack him at all? Raleigh himself, we should think, would be excessively puzzled to find any cause of quarrel in 'The Tempest'; and we defy the most dexterous of special pleaders, or Queen's Bench attorneys, to frame out of it an innuendo of libel.

What Shakspere's particular politics, in the dangerous times in which he lived, might have been, is impossible now to say. Except profound devotion to Queen Elizabeth, which was as much the romantic as the political fashion of the day, and a fine compliment to Essex when high in her favour, we have scarcely any thing specific to allow us to form an opinion. It is probable that he sedulously avoided taking part in them at all. That he was concerned in any thing so foolish as representing the deposition of Richard II. on the day before Essex's insurrection is a mere absurdity, which Mr. Hunter should not have insinuated. Sir Gillie Meric, who was concerned in what Dr. Farmer calls that 'hare-brained business,' gave Phillips the player forty shillings to perform the play of 'Henry IV.'—not Shakspere's, be it remarked, but a play which, in the State Trials, we learn that the players objected to perform, because it was stale [*"Excolctam tragiam de tragicis abdicationes regis Ricardi Secundi"* it is called by Camden,]—in which the killing of the king, i.e. Richard II. was represented. But how does this prove that Shakspere had any thing to do with it, as Mr. Hunter seems to wish us to believe by mentioning the story? Augustine Phillips was certainly one of the patentees of the Globe Theatre with Shakspere in 1603—a couple of years after the execution of Sir Gillie and his friends. It by no means follows, that in 1601 he had the command of 'Shakspere's company.'

We may, then, safely dismiss Raleigh from our consideration. The only other proof of 'The Tempest' having appeared before 1598 is rather of a comical description. In that year Francis Meres published in a work entitled 'Palladis Tamia; Wit's Treasury, being the Second Part of Wit's Commonwealth,' a list of twelve of Shakspere's plays, and among them 'The Tempest' is not. Now this absence has hitherto, and one would think reasonably enough, been regarded as unfavourable to the earlier date of 'The Tempest.' Mr. Hunter valiantly contends that it is *strong* in favour of that opinion. The passage in Meres is as follows:—

"As Plautus and Seneca are accounted the best for comedy and tragedy among the Latins, so Shakspere among the English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage; for comedy, witness his 'Gentlemen of Verona,' his 'Errors,' his 'Love's Labours Lost,' his 'Love's Labours Won,' his 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' and his 'Merchant of Venice'; for tragedy, his 'Richard the Second,' 'Richard the Third,' 'Henry the Fourth,' 'King John,' 'Titus Andronicus,' and his 'Romeo and Juliet,' p. 282."

On which Mr. Hunter remarks, that although

'The Tempest' does not exist *ex nomine* in Meres's list, it is there under the title of 'Love's Labours Won,' and gives himself some trouble to prove Dr. Farmer's conjecture, that by this name, 'All's Well that Ends Well' was intended, to be destitute of foundation:—

"But if not to the 'All's Well,' to what play of Shakspere's was this title once attached? I answer, that of the existing plays, there is only 'The Tempest,' to which it can be supposed to belong: and so long as it suits so well with what is a main incident of this piece, we shall not be driven to the gratuitous and improbable supposition that a play once so called is lost."

"Enter Ferdinand, bearing a log:

Ferdinand. There be some sports are painful, and their labour.
Delight in them sets off: some kinds of baseness Are nobly undergone; and most poor matters Point to rich ends. This my mean task Would be as heavy to me as odious, but The mistress which I serve quickens what's dead, And makes my labours pleasures: O, she is Ten times more gentle than her father's crabbed: And he's composed of harshness. I must remove Some thousands of these logs, and pile them up, Upon a sore injunction: my sweet mistress Weeps when she sees me work; and says, such baseness Had never like executor. I forget:
But these sweet thoughts do even refresh my labours."

Act iii. sc. 1.

Again:—

"For your sake
Am I this patient log-man."

And Prospero afterwards tells him:

"All thy vexations
Were but my trials of thy love; and thou Hast strangely stood the test." Act. iv. sc. 1.

Here then, are the *Love Labours*. In the end they *won* the lady

"So perfect and so peerless."

If you resist this evidence, I may inquire, What other play in your opinion was meant? I suspect that the play had originally a double title, 'The Tempest' or 'Love Labours Won'; just as another of the plays had a double title, 'Twelfth Night, or, What You Will.' Meres may seem to have chosen to call it by the second title, for the sake of the opposition to the title of the play which he had named immediately before it, the 'Love Labours Lost.'

He then winds up this part of his argument with the triumphant conclusion that

"On the whole, then, I submit that we have Meres's testimony to the existence of 'The Tempest' as a play of Shakspere, in 1598."

So that, because Meres says nothing about 'The Tempest' at all, and because Ferdinand's having won Miranda after a couple of hours' courtship, must be considered as a striking instance of 'Love's Labours Won,' we have Meres's testimony to the existence of 'The Tempest' as a play of Shakspere in 1598. The deuce it must! If we resist this wonderfully convincing evidence, we are asked, What other play was meant? We answer, half a dozen, at least, might have been as well as 'The Tempest.' Might it not have been the *second* title of 'All's Well that Ends Well?' a supposition that will render Mr. Hunter's objections to Shakspere's conjecture of no moment.

Coleridge, in accordance with a somewhat fantastic poetical theory of his own, by which he dated Shakspere's plays, classed 'The Tempest' among the earliest. Such fancies are rather too metaphysical to be relied upon. Another poet, Campbell, has given his reason for considering it one of the very last.

"The Tempest," he says, in his remarks on the life and writings of William Shakspere, prefixed to his edition of the plays, "has a sort of sacredness as the last work of the mighty workman. Shakspere, as if con-

sious that it would be his last, and as if inspired to typify himself, has made his hero a natural, a dignified, and benevolent magician, who could conjure up spirits from the vasty deep, and command supernatural agency by the most seemingly natural and simple means. And this final play of our poet has magic indeed; for what can be simpler in language than the courtship of Ferdinand and Miranda, and yet what can be more magical than the sympathy with which it subdues us? Here Shakspere himself is Prospero, or, rather, the superior genius who commands both Prospero and Ariel. But the time was approaching when the potent sorcerer was to break his staff, and to bury it fathoms in the ocean—

'Deeper than ever plummet sound.'

That staff has never been, and never will be, recovered."

We are not a little inclined to concur in the view of the case so eloquently put forward by Campbell, and we think some other circumstances could be adduced from the play, to corroborate his opinion, but we shall not enter into that question here. We have only to say, that Mr. Hunter has not overthrown a single argument adduced to prove the late date of the composition of "The Tempest," nor brought forward any thing worthy of the slightest notice to enforce his own position of the date of 1596.

So far, then, he has not kept the promise of his "ambitious title." We have nothing new in this part of his *Illustrations of Shakspere*. As our article has, however, outstepped ordinary limits, we must defer, until our next appearance, the disquisition, whether he has been more fortunate in assigning a place, than he has been in selecting a date, for "The Tempest."

A Winter in Iceland and Lapland. By the Hon. Arthur Dillon. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1840. Colburn.

MR. DILLON seems to be fonder of very cold weather than we are, and almost to measure the pleasures of travelling by the inconveniences and discomforts to which the traveller is exposed. In his first volume he gives us his experiences of Iceland, including a visit to the Geysers; and in his second, the details of a journey across Lapland to the 70th degree. The rest is made up of *re-vistas* of early history, ancient religion, sorcery, and other Scandinavian topics, which have been handled in a hundred different ways by a hundred different writers. In his more modern passages, our author goes over some of the grounds preoccupied in so lively a manner by Mr. Barrow, in his short but entertaining tour a few years ago; and, what with the old and the new, we find nothing for our critic-trade but to select as much of the latter as may exhibit the nature of the publication, and afford a quarter of an hour's variety to our readers. To begin; the domestic economy of the Icelanders is thus described:—

"In giving a sketch of the occupations and domestic economy of the Icelanders, the account must chiefly be limited to the consideration of them as an agricultural community; for, in a country in which a population under 60,000 is dispersed over an extent equal to that of Ireland, it cannot be expected that many can confine themselves to distinct trades, or that much beyond the cultivation of a small portion of the soil can be undertaken. We accordingly find that, with the exception of a small number, who form the clergy and magistracy, the whole

of the people are peasants, dependent either on agriculture or fishing; and even as regards these two solitary professions, their followers are, in many cases, obliged to add farming to their other occupations, to enable them to earn a moderate subsistence. Yet, though the tillage of the land is the ostensible pursuit of all, many of the peasants, when at leisure, turn their attention to some handicraft, and employ their time in winter in constructing those few field implements which are of a form peculiar to the country, and therefore not imported. The farms are mostly occupied by the land-owner, and, in cases where rented, an annual payment is made by the tenant,—a part in butter, and the remainder in money, based on the number of 'fjording,' or ten pounds' weight of that article, which can be produced on the farm. Indeed, butter and fish are very generally used as a standard of value in most transactions between the peasants: wages to servants are usually paid in the former, and in the latter are computed the taxes due to the king. There is a fixed standard of size for the fish, without which the Sysseman will reject them; as the deficiency, arising from bad condition, or any other cause, will have to be made good to him.

"The only portion of this extensive island from which profit is derived, or to which any idea of property is attached, consists of the long valleys and plains which run between the lesser mountains on the sea-coast. The centre is a vast desert, covered with 'Jokuls,' a name used to distinguish mountains perpetually clad in snow; these extensive glaciers forbid the approach of man, for as even the land at their bases is too elevated to admit of the growth of grass, the greatest obstacle is placed in the way of penetrating among them, in the shape of want of forage for the horses necessary to the undertaking. In travelling from the south to the north coast, a track is selected which avoids these mountains as much as possible; but even this pass will take up thirty-six hours, during which time the horses must continue without any food whatever. In summer this part of the journey is usually got over with as little delay as possible; but in winter it must often be accomplished on foot, from the depth of snow precluding the use of horses. Sledges are not in use in Iceland, the country being too mountainous, and the weather too stormy. Nor did I see more than one pair of snow-shoes while among these people. In form they differed materially from those used by the North American Indians, and in my opinion not so well calculated for supporting a weight, as they were made of one piece of wood, about four feet long, and very narrow, with the points turned up. The pair I saw belonged to a man who had brought the mail from the north,—a journey which is often, in winter, attended with danger, not merely from the excessive cold, but from the sudden drifts of snow that overtake, and but too often overwhelm, the traveller, who finds sufficient impediments to his progress in the darkness that shrouds him for twenty out of twenty-four hours. Yet I have heard it asserted that there are people living among the Jokuls, and that smoke seen in the distance is supposed to issue from their dwellings. Though I have heard this from more than one person, I can hardly give credit to the tale of any one having chosen such a residence; and attribute the whole to a popular belief that a band of robbers, who had fled at different times from justice, have selected this part of the country as a retreat, in which

they can defy pursuit, and form a society of their own, unrestrained by laws human or divine. * * * * *

"Huddled together in a small apartment, usually the loft, without stove or any warmth but that arising from the confined atmosphere, and the packing of twelve or fifteen persons in a place of just sufficient capacity to contain their bulk, the family continue their labours till a late hour in the night, often till two and three in the morning, enlivened by listening to one of the party who chants some saga out of a book by the light of a dim seal-oil lamp. At times the monotony of the single voice is relieved by a hymn, the kind of music most relished by the Icelanders, in which the whole family join. Occasionally they indulge in instrumental music, and the longspel is taken down from the wall to serve as an accompaniment to their mournful ditties. This is the only musical instrument known among them, and is by no means calculated to enliven their spirits; indeed, if its gloomy tones are capable of producing any effect, I should say that it is that of instilling a black melancholy into the mind. In form it is a mere oblong tapering box, about two feet long and three inches wide, terminating somewhat like the head of a fiddle, and played upon with a violin bow. When in use it is laid upon a table, and the forefinger is applied only to the outer one of its three steel wires; and were it not for this difference, it would give one the idea of a guitar in a rapid state of decline. Besides this mode of recreation, it is rare to enter a house that is not provided with a considerable number of books, in the selection of which, as in other matters, the seriousness of their national character is displayed; as, besides the old Norse poems and sagas, works of a devotional tendency are almost always to be met with. Yet, notwithstanding the universal attention paid to religion, which is remarkable, there appears no fondness for ostentatious display of that kind, nor do any set up claims to superior sanctity. In every family the morning work is commenced, and the evening concluded, with a prayer, in which every member joins; the fishing-boat is not launched before the 'formadur,' or chief, has implored Divine protection for the crew while they remain at sea; nor even in travelling will an Icelander commence his day's journey before he has covered his face with his hat, and repeated a short supplication that he may accomplish it in safety."

Such are the principal habits related of this simple, and we add rude people, when we copy the following:—

"The article of food that is most prized is the flesh of the 'haukall,' a species of dog-fish or shark that abounds on the coast of Iceland. Before it is fit for use it must have been buried for a couple of years in the sand; when arrived at a state of maturity by this inhumation, it is said to resemble pork in flavour, but is so offensive as to render it impossible to approach a person who has tasted the least morsel of it for three weeks before. This, however, is not considered a sufficient reason for rejecting it, and I may say that, on the whole, they display as great a love of *haut goûts* as any aldermanic epicure; whether reindeer's meat or skait engross their attention, a few weeks' wind-drying is all that is considered necessary to either. If it were not ill-natured, they might also be accused of eating horse-flesh, though it is but justice to say that the preference shewn to the latter food is confined to certain places, and has gained for these persons the name of 'Hross eiter,' or horse-

eaters, which is looked upon as a term of special reproach."

Upon their general character, Mr. Dillon remarks :—

" I should say gloom prevailed to a great degree, and certainly the first impression on a stranger's mind will not be favourable to them. His patience will often be put to the test by their dilatory habits, and his temper will be further tried by their manners, many of which are very disgusting ; such as transferring milk from one bottle to another through the medium of their mouths, and several other customs too offensive to be particularised ; but he will find much honesty, and wish to oblige when it is in their power. Their hospitality should rather be measured by their wish, than their ability to treat guests well. Of pride they are by no means deficient, and they add to it a great degree of stubbornness, which they mistake for independence ; and though rarely warm, they are always courteous in their manner. As regards their intellect, they are above mediocrity, and only want room to exercise their talents, which cannot be denied them, when we call to mind that the first living sculptor, Thorwaldsen, is an Icelander."

In the trip to the boiling Geysers, we find nothing of sufficient novelty or interest to justify extract ; but must notice the state of literature :—

" Videe is interesting as being the place from which all the literature of the country is disseminated, for it contains the only printing-press now existing in Iceland. The art was first introduced, at the time of the Reformation, by Jon Arason, bishop of Holum, one of its most strenuous opposers, who hoped, by the aid of typography, to check the change of opinion which was gaining ground. He accordingly brought over a Swede, who superintended the establishment of a press in Nordland, which helped to overthrow its founder and the supremacy of his religion in that quarter ; for among the first books that were issued from it was an Icelandic version of the Bible, by Gulbrandr Thorlakson, in use to this day. It must have been sufficient for the literary wants of the country, for, till the middle of the last century, no attempt at a rival establishment was made ; and when at length a second press was set up, in Hrappsey, an island in Breidiford, a very inconsiderable number of books appeared from it, and a society, called ' Islandska Bokmenta Felags,' or the Icelandic Book Society, purchased both, and united them at Leira, in Borgafjord. Subsequently, Magnus Stephenson, the principal promoter of the society, on his removal to Videe, transferred the press to the latter place, where it now remains, rented from the Bokmenta Felags by his son."

The account of the eider-ducks here (Stephenson's printing-house) is rather particular and curious. We are told :—

" The whole of the hill to the west of the house was strewn with nests of ducks. So much do these interesting birds feel their security in Videe, that five of them had chosen as their location the ground under a narrow bench that runs along the windows of the house ; and so perfectly fearless were they, that, without moving away, they would peck at the hand that disturbed them. The rising ground is particularly favourable for the birds to build on, being covered with hollows and inequalities, that serve to protect them from the weather, and only require the addition of down to convert them into nests. The drakes

are easily known by their white and black plumage ; but the dark hue of the females makes it difficult to distinguish them from the holes in which they sit. Owing to their lying close, I have frequently trodden on them, without their warning me of their presence till the mischief was done. The drakes, though by no means wild, will not allow themselves to be handled so freely as the ducks, and mostly keep together on the top of the hill. As soon as nest is completed, it is usual to remove the greater part of the down, while the bird is away feeding ; and this operation is repeated a second, and occasionally a third time. On her return, the bird makes up the deficiency thus created by stripping her own breast ; and, when her stock is exhausted, she calls on her mate to add his portion, which will bear no comparison with the sacrifice she has made. The same sort of spoliation is practised with regard to the eggs, care being taken that three or four are left ; for should the bird on her return find the nest empty, she will desert it, and not breed again the same season. About six, considerably larger than those of tame ducks, and of a light green colour, are found in each nest. Their flavour is very inferior to that of hens' eggs, but they are not so strong as to prevent their being made into omelettes. The average quantity of down obtained from three nests is half a pound, so mixed with grass and foreign matter, that forty pounds in that state are reduced to fifteen, after it has been thoroughly cleaned. Videe and Engoe together produce, I believe, about three hundred pounds weight yearly ; which would, if the above calculation is correct, make the number of ducks that come to these two places fall not far short of ten thousand every year. The number, however, that breed in Faxiford is small compared to those that bend their course to Breidiford. The innumerable little islands that fill that bay afford ample shelter and security to eider-ducks, who seem to avoid nothing so much as any place accessible to foxes. These cunning animals are particularly fond of their eggs ; but, though we will give them all credit for ingenuity in getting at them, we can hardly be expected to put much faith in the story told about them by the Danish travellers, Olavson and Paulson. When, say they, the Icelandic foxes have detected, say they, the Icelandic foxes have detected, any crows' eggs in an inaccessible place, they take one another's tails in their mouths, and form a string of sufficient length to reach the nest, and let one end of it over the rock. They have, however, forgotten to tell us how the eggs are passed up by these craftiest of Reynards. The separation of the down from the grosser feathers and straws occupies the women during winter. It is then thoroughly divested of particles too minute for the hand to remove, by being heated in pans, and winnowed like wheat. Should it become matted and dead, it is again subjected to a brisk heat, which restores its original elasticity, and increases its bulk. As in the case of ostriches, the down taken after death is inferior to that which the living duck tears from its breast, which prevents their destruction through wantonness. They are besides protected by the law, which punishes the shooting of them by a pecuniary penalty, and the forfeiture of the weapon used. Nor are guns allowed to be fired in the neighbourhood during their sough ; and even the corvette that brought the prince abstained in the spring from saluting him."

Having devoted as much of our space as the subject demands to the Icelandic portion of the

work, we shall confine our Laplandic illustration to a single extract, which exhibits the resting-place, or northern caravanserai appropriated to gentlemen who choose to traverse the mountainous country with Lapp drivers and reindeer turns out ; but which, however, we must defer for a week.

WOOD ENGRAVING IN FRANCE.

[Fourth Notice.]

Les Mille et Une Nuits. (The Arabian Nights, with 2000 Illustrations.) 4 vols. 8vo. Paris, Bourdin.

Histoire de l'Empereur Napoléon. (With 500 Illustrations, designed by Horace Vernet.) 8vo. Paris, Dubochet.

Histoire de la Révolution Française, par Miguel. (Designs by Raffet, &c.) 8vo. Brussels.

Versailles, Ancien et Moderne, par le Comte Alex. de Laborde. (800 Illustrations.) 8vo. Paris, Everart.

Lettres d'Hélène et d'Abailard. (Illustrations by Gigoux.) 2 vols. large 8vo. Paris, Houdaille.

THE French illustrated edition of *The Arabian Nights* contains many bold and fine cuts, which we believe are clichés, or casts, from German blocks. But in our opinion, as a whole, it is much inferior to the English edition of the same work published by Charles Knight. The beautifully delicate engravings and the charming sketches of Eastern scenery which embellish the latter, accord much better with the airy character of the work, than the strong and sometimes coarse figures of the French edition. The chief defect in the English cuts is the want of expression in the faces. As we have observed before, it is difficult in illustrating such a book to avoid a certain disagreeable character of sameness.

From illustrating the standard works of the national literature, the Parisian booksellers have proceeded to make books to be illustrated. The most popular of these works is the *History of Napoleon*, the text written by M. Laurent, with 500 designs from the pencil of Horace Vernet. Many of the woodcuts in this book are admirably executed. They are distributed in the pages much in the same manner as the embellishments of " Gil Blas " and " Don Quixote." We give two specimens. The first represents the emperor, on the 8th May, 1805, visiting the field of battle of Marengo, in the same dress which he had worn in the engagement. It is engraved by Rouget. The second, from the workshop of Andrew Best and Leloir, represents Murat's dragoons driving the Austrians from the bridge of Leck, on the 7th of October in the same year, at the beginning of the campaign which was signalled by the decisive battle of Austerlitz.

The illustrated edition of Miguet's *History of the French Revolution*, published at Brussels, is got up in precisely the same style as the *Life of Napoleon*, and is professedly intended as a companion to it.

The *Historical Guide to Versailles* is embellished very richly and very tastefully. No work of a similar character presents so agreeable a variety of design, either in subject or form, as this. Landscapes and gardens, bridges and railroads, palaces and cottages, battles, processions, familiar scenes, portraits, fancy sketches, &c. &c., are crowded on every page, sometimes as large pictures, sometimes as borders, and at other times as initial letters, side and tail-pieces, &c. Names of English engravers occur frequently, particularly that of Orrin Smith. We have many neat landscape

sketches engraved by Adolphe Best. Nobody who has visited Versailles should be without this book; the interest of those who have yet to visit it will be doubly excited by possessing it.

We have yet to notice a work which, in its embellishments, seems to be inferior to none of the others, the illustrated edition of the *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*. This subject is far

more popular in France than in England; the book seems to have found so little favour in the eyes of the London booksellers, that we only know it ourselves by some splendid specimens of the cuts which adorn it, given in a fine French periodical entitled "L'Artiste," illustrative of a very interesting article on the book by a clever writer, G. Laviron. These specimens are certainly exquisite.

we cannot enter upon the thousand topics brought forward and discussed, we may inform them that his enthusiastic feelings on approaching our shores are gratifying examples of the right American tone (of the child towards the parent), and that his accounts of our pulpits, Exeter Hall meetings, &c. &c., not forgetting a trip to Epsom races, into which he was accidentally betrayed, may be perused with benefit by the public, and especially by its more serious portions.

Fitzwiggins. A Novel. By the Author of "Sydenham," &c. 3 vols. 12mo. London, 1840. Bentley.

The adventures of a little farmer's son, who opens life as a shop-boy, runs through the gradations of many menial services, and finally settles in a small way of business with a wife. There is no interest in the hero; and all that can be said for the publication is that it sketches in an ironical and quizzical manner the characters of many persons, and the circumstances of many situations in life. The proceedings of the Association of Servants is, perhaps, the best piece of jocularity in the work.

Diary of a Nun. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1840. Colburn.

PART journal of a tour through Italy, and part novel, and possessing but slight claims to popularity in either character. It is interlarded with Italian quotations and sentences.

The Bank of England, and other Banks. Pp. 16. (London, Whittaker and Co.)—A panegyric upon the Bank, setting it above all other institutions.

A Refutation to Robert's Doctrine of Paper Money being Inconvertible with the Cost of Gold, by Dr. Dahlmann. Pp. 24.—Another pamphlet, producing a scheme of the writer's which we do not very clearly understand. It rests on particular issues of government bills or bonds, instead of bank-notes, to meet the circulation.

The Temperance Emigrants, a Drama, &c. by J. Dunlop, Esq. Pp. 91. (London, Houlston and Stoneman).—The author of the "Philosophy of Drinking Usages," &c. is a persevering advocate for temperance societies, in whose cause he has constructed this drama, which has only the merit of its purpose and no dramatic merit to recommend it.

The Protestant Exiles of Tillerthal, &c. from the German, by J. B. Saunders. Pp. 125. (London, Hatchard and Son).—The story of these Protestant exiles from the Tyrol and their persecutions resemble, on a small scale, the more ancient and extended affairs with which the public are so well acquainted through the works of Gilly, and others. The writer avers that they prove the spirit of the Romish Church, where it can dominate over Protestantism, to be unchanged. The narrative possesses German simplicity, and is interesting.

The Cloud Companion, by the Rev. J. Bouly. Pp. 203. (London, Whittaker.) *The Bell-Hillion, or Sketches of the Earth.* Pp. 104. (London, Green.)—Two nice little books for youth, the former of religious instruction, like Gisborne's "Every Day in the Year"; and the latter pleasantly explaining points of natural history on the ball of earth which we inhabit.

We must dismiss a few books from our table with very brief notices. *An Essay on the Oxford Tracts* (pp. 126. London, Cadell; Edinburgh, Blackwood) asserts the authority of the Church of England, and condemns the new Oxford sect for endeavouring to establish a midway between the Reformed and Romish Church. *Des Idées Napoléoniennes,* by Prince Napoleon Louis Buonaparte. 8vo, pp. 176. (London, Colburn).—A biographical notice of the author, and a treatise on governments in general, and the government of the late emperor in particular, whose wars are compared to the overflows of the Nile—apparently destructive, but in reality the sources of fertility and abundance. *Poverty in England,* by the Rev. C. Stow. Pp. 135. (London, Ward and Co.).—The substance of five lectures delivered in Little Prescott Street meeting-house, and strongly anti-poor-law. Dr. Broad's *Homoeopathic Documents* (pp. 159. London, Hinde) upholds the modern and reformed system of homoeopathic practice, and laughs to scorn the old methods and the pretences of Hahnemann. "*Contraria contraria curuntur, similia similibus curuntur!*" There is much ability in the discussion. On the subject of homoeopathy we may also mention *Annals of the Dispensary.* (8vo, pp. 28.) Dr. Curie's lecture, and all information respecting this Institution.



MISCELLANEOUS.

Glimpses of the Old World; or, Excursions on the Continent and in Great Britain. By the Rev. J. A. Clark, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Philadelphia, United States. 2 vols. London, 1840. Bagster and Sons.

This work must possess very considerable interest for the religious classes of the community, being the record of an extensive tour through Italy, France, England, &c., by an

American clergyman, whose health required relaxation from his clerical duties; of the highly evangelical school, he describes the impressions made upon his mind by the state of religion and conditions of the people throughout the course of his travel, and gives his opinions frankly and considerably on what he witnessed and heard in connexion with these important subjects. His English visit will most attract English readers, and though

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[Proceedings of January 13th, concluded.]

1.—*JOURNAL of a Voyage from Port Essington to Timor Laut, the Arrú, and Ki Islands,*

in H. M. S. Britomart, Captain Owen Stanley, and Lieutenant A. L. Kuper, in March 1839." Communicated by Captain Beaufort, R.N. "Sailing from Victoria on the 21st March, we anchored off Ollillet, a populous village on the south-eastern part of Timor Laut, in lat. $7^{\circ} 55' S.$, $131^{\circ} 26' E.$ (measured from Port Essington, assumed to be in $132^{\circ} 16' 15'' E.$), on an abrupt cliff, 413 feet above the sea. The natives were friendly, and came on board in large numbers. They are generally good-looking, athletic men. A few leaves of a navigation book and other articles, which had belonged to some of the men of the Charles Eaton, when wrecked in Torres Straits, were found with them. Population about 1000. Running along the eastern side of Timor Laut, we passed Laúra, and some other villages, similarly situated as Ollillet. The whole coast is very beautiful, the land moderately high and thickly wooded: a coral reef extends along the shore at about one mile distance. The Arrú Islands are low and flat in appearance. On the 25th, we anchored off the small village of Dobbo, in the Island of Wamma, on a sandy point, in lat. $5^{\circ} 45' 45'' S.$, long. $134^{\circ} 20' E.$, Var. $3^{\circ} 30' E.$, Dip, $25^{\circ} 39'$. These islands are chiefly a mangrove swamp, intersected by numerous channels, thickly wooded with fine trees, some of which rise upwards of seventy feet before they throw off their branches: the wood of a reddish colour and close grain; the foliage variegated and beautiful, and covered with creepers, which climb to the top of the highest trees. The village is inhabited by Bugis and Chinese, but we saw nothing of the natives, who rarely come to the coast. No supplies could be obtained. Trade consists in birds of paradise, birds'-nests, pearls, and trepang.

"April 3.—Hove too off the straggling village of Elli, at the north-eastern extremity of the Great Ki Island: the prahus and boats used in the trade in these seas are chiefly built here. This, the largest of the Ki group, is a long narrow strip of land, extending in a N.N.E. and S.S.W. direction, forty-five miles in length, with an average breadth of four miles: it is mountainous, and thickly covered with fine forest trees: about the centre the land reaches 3310 feet above the sea, which is the highest point; the north and south extremes of the island are in $5^{\circ} 16' S.$, $133^{\circ} 16' E.$, and $5^{\circ} 58' S.$, $133^{\circ} 4 E.$, respectively. We ran down the eastern side of the island, and, rounding the southern point, sailed to the northward, between the Greater and Lesser Ki: this latter presents a great contrast to the former, being very low-wooded land, but both shores appeared to be thickly inhabited.

"April 6.—Anchored off the walled village of Ki Dula in a bay at the north-western extremity of the island; this is also a great boat-building station; the country around quite a garden, but the natives indifferent as to selling the produce, so that we could obtain no supplies; the bay is fringed by several small islands, and thus affords an excellent harbour in either monsoon; this island extends twenty-three miles from north to south, with an average breadth of eight miles. On the 7th, steered to the southward, passing numerous small islands, which lie a few miles off the Lesser Ki, all along its western side; and on the 9th, anchored off the village of Aweer, on the south-west side of Vordate, a small island of the Tenimber group, about six miles long from north-east to south-west, by two miles wide; it is moderately high and well cultivated; its north point lies $6^{\circ} 54' S.$, $132^{\circ} 5' E.$

On the 11th, we revisited Timor Laut; and on the 15th April, again anchored at Port Essington." This journal is accompanied by a tract-chart and plans of Ollillet, Dobbo, Dilli in Timor, and Lizard Island, and an inlet near Double Point, in Torres Straits; besides views of Dilli, Port Essington, and Victoria, &c., by Captain Owen Stanley and Messrs. Drury and Hill, of H. M. S. Britomart.—2. 'Narrative of an Excursion in Coburg Peninsula, Australia, in May, 1839,' by Lieutenant P. B. Stewart, of H. M. S. Alligator. In the course of this journey, of about eighty miles in circuit, the party found some very fine grazing country, sixteen streams or chains of pools, some good straight and light timber, a sort of cedar carrying a girth of three yards to the height of thirty feet; the cabbage palm (an excellent vegetable) growing in abundance over an extent of fourteen miles; many buffaloes (escaped, probably, from the former and latter settlement), and a few kangaroos: the natives met with were all friendly.—"A Summary of the Discoveries made and Objects obtained during an Expedition on the Western Shores of Australia, in the Months of February, March, and April, 1839," by Captain George Grey, Communicated by Lord John Russell.—"The district examined during this expedition, lies between Cape Cuvier and Swan River, having for its northern limit the parallel of 24° south latitude, and for its southern limit the parallel of 32° south latitude. This expedition combined two objects, the examination and nautical survey of such parts of the coast lying between these limits as were imperfectly known, and the exploration of such parts of the continent as might on examination appear worthy of particular notice. The materials for the construction of a chart of that portion of the coast, which has been only too imperfectly delineated by Van Keulen, were first collected; a survey of the unknown parts of Shark's Bay was then completed. In addition to these, I have also the materials requisite to construct a map of the country lying between the limits above named, sometimes extending to the distance of forty miles from the coast. The rivers which are, when considered with reference to the other rivers of Western Australia, of considerable importance, some of them being larger than any other yet found in the south-west of this continent, have been discovered, besides many smaller streams. These rivers I have named the Gascoigne, the Dule Ion (or difficult mouth), the Hutt, the Irwin, the Murchison, the Arrowsmith, the Smith, the Greenough, the Garbanas, the Beloe, New Mass (or diminutive river). Two mountain ranges have been discovered: one first seen at the northern extremity of the Darling range, and about thirty miles to the eastward of it, lofty and altogether differing in character from the Darling range, which at this point is called Moresby's Flat-topped Range: its direction is nearly north and south. I have taken the liberty of calling this range after her most gracious majesty, the Victoria Range; and the extensive district of fertile country, extending from the base of this range to the sea, and having a length of more than fifty miles in a north and south direction, I have also named the province of Victoria. The other range is thrown off in a westerly direction from the Darling Range, it is about forty miles in length from north to south, of a bare, sterile, and barren nature, and terminating seaward in Mount Peron, and Mount Le Sueur. To this range I have given the name of Gairdner's Range, it forms a very important feature in

the geography of this part of Australia. Three extensive districts of good country have been discovered in the course of this expedition. The Province of Victoria before alluded to, the District of Babbage, and that of Gabby-boola, or water abundant. The province of Victoria is situated between the parallel of 28° and 29° south latitude, its most considerable river is the Hutt, which disengages into a large estuary; a few miles below the estuary the river separates into two branches, both of which were running strong at the time we passed them. Previous to our reaching the Hutt, our boats had all been wrecked; I had, therefore, no opportunity of examining whether the estuary of this river was navigable or the contrary: from its size, however, I consider that it must be navigable. The other principal streams which drain this district are the Irwin and the Murchison. One remarkable feature in the province of Victoria is that the carboniferous series is here developed. Throughout a tract of country in Western Australia, extending in latitude from the bottom of Geographic Bay to Cape Cuvier, and which I have carefully examined, the point above alluded to is the only one in which I have yet found the rocks belonging to this series. This circumstance, therefore, imparts a very high degree of interest to this district. The district of Babbage is situated on and near the river Gascoigne, in Shark's Bay; this river discharges itself into the bay through two mouths, between which lies Babbage Island: the most southern of these mouths is situated in $24^{\circ} 57' S.$ This river is the most southern river that I have ascertained to be deficient in that universal characteristic of the rivers in the south-west of this continent,—a bar estuary. I have not seen the mouths of three or four of the rivers before enumerated, and I cannot, therefore, say that they discharge themselves into estuaries, but at the same time I cannot say that they may not do so; whereas the Gascoigne has no estuary, at least in the sense that estuary is used in this country, but two mouths of considerable magnitude: this river is also the most northern river on the western side of this continent, where the rise and fall of tide is sufficiently great to exercise any influence upon it relatively to the purposes of navigation. The rise and fall of tide here is about five and a half feet, but there is only one regular tide in twenty-four hours; the first tide rises to a certain point, and ere it has scarcely commenced to ebb, the second tide comes slowly on, so that to a careless observer only one tide is perceptible. The district of Gabby-boola lies immediately to the north of Perth. The largest river in this district is the Garbanass; it, however, contains four other rivers, the Moore River, the Beloe-New-Mass, the Smith, and the Greenough. Moore River, about fifty miles to the north of Perth, was before known. A few miles to the north of this river lies the Beloe-New-Mass, and about twenty-five miles to the north of Moore River is the Garbanass; into this Moore River discharges itself about nine miles from the sea. The Greenough is situated between this point and Gairdner's Range, and immediately under this range lies the Smith, which is a large river even at the distance of thirty miles from the sea-coast. Gairdner's Range is naturally the northern limit of this district, which is connected with Perth by a chain of fresh-water lakes; the greatest distance between any two of which is not more than from four to six miles. The whole of this district is, therefore, immediately available, and affords a gratifying proof that this flourishing colony

is by no means deficient in good and immediately available land. The circumstance also of this district being so abundantly supplied with water, even at the end of an uncommonly dry season, which is the period I traversed it in, much enhances its value. There was one other district examined by us, which possesses such peculiar characteristics that even in this short report I am induced to call your lordship's attention to it. I have named this the district of Koo-him-buit, that is, the district of Falsehood or Deceit; it is situated between a point lying about ten miles to the north of the northern mouth of the Gascoigne and Cape Cuvier: the whole extent of its sea-coast is bounded by a range of lofty sandy dunes, having a width inland of not more than from two to two and a half miles. The first time that I ascended this range was on the morning of the 8th of March, 1839, at a point about fifteen miles south of Cape Cuvier. On looking to the eastward, I was surprised to see an apparently boundless expanse of water in that direction. I hurried back to the boats, and selected three men to accompany me in my first examination of the shores of this inland sea. When we gained the top of the sandhills, the surprise of the party was as great as my own, and they begged me to allow them to return, and endeavour by the united efforts of the party to carry one of the whale boats over the range, and at once launch it on this body of water. I, however, deemed it more prudent in the first instance to select the best route along which to move the whale boat, as well as to choose a spot which afforded facilities for launching it. In pursuance of this determination, we descended the eastern side of the sandhills, which abruptly fell in that direction, with a slope certainly not much exceeding an angle of 45°. I now found that the water did not approach so near to the foot of the hills as I had at first imagined, but that immediately at the foot of these hills lay extensive plains of mud and sand, at times evidently flooded by the sea, for on them lay dead shells of many kinds and sizes, as well as large travelled blocks of coral. The water now appeared to be about a mile distant; it was apparently boundless in an easterly and north-easterly direction, and was studded with islands. We still felt convinced that it was water we saw, for the shadows of the low hills near it could be distinctly traced on its unruffled surface. As we continued to advance, the water, however, constantly retreated before us, and at last surrounded us. We had been deceived by mirage! The islands are really so when the plains are covered with water; in many places the sandy mud was still so moist that we sunk deeply into it, and, after travelling for fifteen miles on a north-eastern course, I could still see no limits to these plains in a north-east direction; nor could I either then, or on any subsequent occasion, find the channel which connected them with the sea. We dug in several places in these flats and in their vicinity, but could only find salt water, whereas in the narrow range of sandhills separating them from the sea, we found abundance of fresh water only four feet below the surface of the valleys between these hills. As this range of hills offers many geological phenomena, I have named it Lyell's Range, in compliment to the distinguished geologist of that name. In the course of this expedition I have been able to fix the limiting parallels of latitude which various plants and animals inhabit on the western coast, and find that the natives inhabiting the banks of the Gascoigne speak a language iden-

tical with that of the natives of Swan River and King George's Sound. The dialect is slightly different, but the language is the same. I had at this point a friendly interview with them, and both myself and the natives who accompanied me were soon able to converse fluently with them. It thus appears that for a distance of 650 miles, measured in a straight line along the western coast, a common language prevails. The exact opposite to this has hitherto been supposed to be the case. The attention I have fortunately been able to pay to that part of your lordship's instructions, in which you so particularly direct me to endeavour to learn the language in use among the natives, has been the means of enabling me not only to acquire the information I have above detailed, but has placed at my disposal a fund of information relative to the laws, customs, and habits of thought of these people, which I should by no other means have been able to obtain." Major Kretschmar, late of the Brazilian Topographical Brigade, who was present at the meeting, exhibited and explained a panorama of the towns of Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, drawn and coloured on the spot by himself in 1837.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

MR. HALLAM in the chair.—A paper "On the general Statistics of the Parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark," by the Rev. George Weight, was read. This communication is highly creditable to the reverend author's industry and research. We cannot enter upon all his details; but as a large section of the parish—"The Mint"—is now enjoying some degree of public attention in London, in consequence of having been the scene of "the life, character, and behaviour, of the notorious Jack Sheppard," a word or two in reference to that place may be considered interesting. Jack Sheppard's companion, the well-known Jonathan Wild, whose residence was next to the Cooper's Arms, in the Old Bailey, kept his horses at the Duke's Head, still standing in Red Cross Street, within the precincts of the Mint. It is one mile and 216 yards in circumference. In 1697 it contained 92 houses; and in 1830, 1712. Opposite to St. George's Church was formerly Suffolk House, a mansion belonging to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, the husband of Mary, sister of Henry the Eighth of England, and widow of Louis the Twelfth of France. The duke died in 1545, and the palace then fell into the hands of the king, who converted it into a royal Mint. It was then called Southwark Place, and sometimes Duke's Place. Some suppose that Henry the Eighth obtained possession of the palace in consequence of an exchange between himself and the Duke of Suffolk in 1537; others think that the king purchased it. Edward the Sixth, in 1549, came from Hampton Court to visit the Mint; it was then spoken of as "the capital messuage, gardens, and park in Southwark, and the gardens, lands, &c. to the said mansion-house, gardens, and park belonging." Queen Mary gave the Mint to Nicholas, archbishop of York, and his successors for ever, to recompence for York House, Westminster, which had been taken from Cardinal Wolsey by Henry the Eighth. The archbishop seems not to have approved of this family residence "for his inn and lodging when he repaired to London;" and therefore, in 1557, he sold it, when the Mint was pulled down, and a great number of mean dwellings was erected on its site. The locality of the Mint became an *Alsatia*, out-Heroding the famous one in White Friars, of

which Sir Walter Scott, in his "Fortunes of Nigel," has given such a graphic description. It was an asylum for debtors, coiners, and vagabonds of all orders and degrees. In the time of Edward the Sixth we read of the "traitors, felons, fugitives, outlaws, condemned persons, convict persons," and so forth, herding in St. George's and the neighbouring parishes. It became at length such a pest that statutes in the 8th and 9th years of William the Third, and 9th and 11th of George the First, ordered the abolition of its privileges! The evil, however, to quote the elegant proverb, was too deeply "bred in the bone" to be so easily "got out of the flesh;" some parts of the Mint are still exceedingly filthy and wretched, and inhabited by a poor and profligate population. The details touching births, deaths, marriages, schools, educated and uneducated, &c., we necessarily pass over.—Mr. Rowland Hill was at the meeting, and made some observations on the uniform penny postage system. There was nothing very new elicited: we understood him to say that the letters delivered through the General Post-office in London on the 11th of January, the day after the new system was adopted, amounted to about 80,000; the corresponding day of last year they were 30,000; on the 12th of January, this year, 100,000; on the 13th, 80,000; and they now average 70,000 per day.—MM. Ducpeteaux, of Brussels; Villermé, Paris; Meidinger, Francfort; Mallet, Paris; and Signor Giuji, Florence, were elected foreign honorary members.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

AT the Anniversary Meeting of the above Society, held on the 6th of January, Humphrey Gibbs, Esq. in the chair, the following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year:—President, Earl Stanhope. *Treasurer*, Henry Cope, Esq. jun. *Secretaries*, William Henry Judd, Esq., Edwin Saunders, Esq. *Librarian*, James Yearsley, Esq. *Conserver*, Frederick John Farre, M.D. *Professor of Botany*, Charles Johnson, Esq. *Professor of Chemistry*, Thomas Everitt, Esq. *Professor of Materia Medica*, George G. Sigmond, M. D. *Professor of Toxicology*, William Tiffin Iliff, Esq.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, 17th January.—Mr. J. E. Gray, President, in the chair. Read, the conclusion of the "Notice of the Indigenous Plants on the Banks of the River Wye," by Mr. Edwin Lees. The excursions, during which the numerous varieties named in the paper were collected, were made chiefly in the summer of 1839, along the whole course of the beautiful winding Wye, from Plinlimmon to Severn. The habitats of the plants in the several districts, meadow-land, moorland, rock and forest, and littoral, were described with every requisite information for their classification. The varieties were, moreover, arranged botanically in a catalogue attached to the paper, which, to the student of that science, about to ramble through the same lovely country, will be a useful companion. Mr. Lees speaks of the varying and picturesque scenery with the enthusiasm so natural to the Wye tourist, which for him not to feel, is to know himself dead to the kindlier and ennobling impulses of human nature. We would not be that man!

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Jan. 14.—Being the first day of Hilary Term, the following degrees were conferred:—

Doctor in Music. — W. Marshall, Organist of Christ Church and St. John's College.

Masters of Arts. — Rev. R. Shepherd, St. Mary Hall; Rev. J. Hunt, Queen's College; Rev. M. D. French, Brasenose College; Rev. T. C. H. Leaver, Rev. S. H. Russell, Rev. J. A. Hessey, Fellows of St. John's College.

Bachelors of Arts. — T. Helmre, Magdalen Hall; J. H. Scott, Christ Church.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

SIR JOHN BARROW in the chair.—A paper on the Structure of Adventitious Bone, by Mr. Smee, was read. Little of this communication can be reported. The author, in the course of his researches, found that earthly matter pervaded every portion of adventitious bone. This consists of three kinds,—reduced bone, regrowth, and ossification.—Another paper was read, entitled 'An Attempt to Establish a New System of Notation for Life Contingencies,' by Mr. Harvey.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

JANUARY 4th. Professor Wilson in the chair.—The Secretary read a series of letters from Major Rawlinson, severally dated from Persia, between July 1838 and August 1839, giving an interesting account of his labours and persevering exertions in deciphering and translating the cuneiform inscriptions at Bisitoon. The result of his researches promises to be of the greatest value, in presenting, from the most authentic sources, a history of the Persian empire, from the time of Cambyses to the latter end of the reign of Darius; corroborative, in a most satisfactory degree, of the genealogies according to Herodotus, although varying considerably in the narrative. Major Rawlinson details the gradual progress of his discoveries, and the modifications which his first view of the subject had experienced, as he improved his acquaintance with the character and language of the inscriptions. He also alludes to the obstacles continually in his way, arising from the very unsettled state of Persia; and to the serious difficulty of copying many of the inscriptions, occasioned by their elevated position, which makes an approach to them, in most cases, dangerous, and in some, absolutely impossible, without the erection of expensive scaffolding, for which he had neither time nor means. These difficulties were described by Sir Robert Ker Porter, who, with all his efforts, was unable to approach near enough to read the inscriptions, even with a glass. He says, "at no time can it be attempted without great personal risk;" and observed, that even had he been able to draw himself high enough to read them, the transcription would have occupied him more than a month. Major Rawlinson speaks also of the difficulty of understanding the language, which he considers much more allied to the most ancient form of Sanskrit, that of the Veda dialect, than to the language of the Zend Avesta, which, with the religious system contained in it, he brings down to the epoch of the commencement of the Sassanian dynasty. Each column of the inscription comprises ninety-six lines; the first contains the titles and genealogy of Darius, whom it traces through Veshasp, Arsham, Ariyarem, Taishpaish, and Hekhamenish; the Hystaspes, Arsamas, Ariaramnes, Teispes, and Achæmenes, of Herodotus. It then enumerates the kingdoms subject to Darius, including above twenty provinces, which extended from Ionia, on the west, to the Mekri, the people of the modern Mekran, on the east. The manner in which Darius became possessor of the throne is given with considerable detail; and it affords an interesting subject of comparison with the tales of the Greek and

Roman writers on the same subject. Cambyses, of the race of Amakhem, had a brother named Berjeye, the Mergis of Justin, and Smerdis of Herodotus, whom he slew in battle. On his departure for the conquest of Egypt, the empire was disturbed; and a Magian, named Gumat, declared himself to be the deceased Smerdis, son of Cyrus, and in his name took possession of the empire in the absence of Cambyses, who died in Egypt about this time. Gumat, after this, attacked the Susians, over whom the deceased Smerdis had formerly been governor. The Susians soon discovered that he was an impostor, and they resisted him in consequence. Soon after he was recognised by Darius, as Gumat the Magian, and was attacked by him, with the aid of a body of archers, and put to death. Darius upon this took possession of the throne. The acts of Darius in his new kingdom are then detailed; among which is particularised his restoring the worship of fire, and re-establishing the fire-altars, which had been desecrated by the Magians. The revolt of Susiana under Atin, the Octanes of the Greeks, is then related. The inscription goes on to detail the revolt of Babylon, under Nejetebir, who pretended to be Nebuagedrech (the Nebuchadrezzar of the Bible: see Jeremiah, xxii. et seq.), and was defeated and made prisoner by Darius. The rebellion is given in detail, and continued to the end of the first column, and as much of the second as Major Rawlinson copied. The remainder being a good deal broken, he left it to proceed to the third, which is the most entire of the whole, intending to return to the second column at some future opportunity. The third column continues and concludes an account of the subjugation of Parthia, begun, without doubt, in the second column. Then follows an account of the conquest of Margush (Merv), which is called the eighth conquest of Darius. Next is a long account of the revolt of the province of Persia, which is not concluded so far as Major Rawlinson has copied this column, that is to say, to the sixty-fifth line; there remain, therefore, thirty-one lines. The fourth column Major Rawlinson fears is wholly illegible, so much of it being obliterated as to leave only detached words. There are three other columns in the Median character, whose position is so difficult that it has baffled all his attempts at reading them; also, five in the Babylonian character, much defaced: these, doubtless, contain translations of the history now touched upon. There are also several sculptured figures, which are engraved in Sir Robert K. Porter's "Travels," the inscriptions on which Sir Robert was unable to approach. Four of these Major Rawlinson copied with great difficulty and danger, being compelled to stand on the topmost step of a ladder, with a precipice of nearly 400 feet below him. The prostrate figure (see Sir R. K. Porter) is that of Gumat, the Magian. The next is that of Atin, the usurping monarch of Susa. The inscription on the third statue was not copied, but that on the fourth shews the figure to be Fredwertish, or Phraortes. The fifth statue is the representation of Chitretekhim, who made himself king of the revolted Sogartii. Further than this Major Rawlinson was unable to go; but he promises himself another visit to the rocks, when he will be better prepared with means to overcome the difficulties he will have to encounter. At the conclusion of this remarkable paper, the director observed that it was useless to speculate upon these discoveries until the copies themselves should be brought home; but, from what had been communicated,

it was evident that the efforts of Major Rawlinson had been eminently successful. The labours of Grotfend, Burnouf, Lassen, and all others who had preceded, had been confined to inscriptions of a few lines only; but the extensive details now found were wholly unparalleled. How far they might be depended upon might be seen hereafter; but he thought there was no reason to doubt their general accuracy. Nothing could be more unpretending than the manner in which this important discovery was announced; and we might venture to look forward with extreme interest, and the best hopes, to the communication of one of the most valuable contributions to ancient Oriental history ever made.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

MR. HALLAN in the chair.—Mr. Worship communicated two original letters from Queen Elizabeth to Dr. Dale, the English ambassador in France, relative to her proposed marriage with the Due d'Alençon, who was anxious for an interview; which, however, the queen declined, as well as the proposal of marriage. Mr. Goodwin, jun. communicated some notices on the ecclesiastical buildings of Normandy; part of which being read, the remainder was postponed: and the Meetings were adjourned to 6th February, next Thursday being the anniversary of Charles's martyrdom.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Geographical, 9 P.M.; Entomological (Anniversary), 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.
Tuesday.—Medical and Chirurgical, 8 P.M.; Zoological, 8 P.M.; Architectural, 8 P.M.
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 7 P.M.
Thursday.—Royal, 8 P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Numismatic, 7 P.M.; Western Literary, 8 P.M.
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 P.M.
Saturday.—Mathematical, 8 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA.

In our last publication we noticed a miniature of Prince Albert, executed during his Serene Highness's recent visit to this country, by Mr. W. C. Ross, A.R.A.; we have now to mention a portrait of the same illustrious person, of which Messrs. Hodgson and Graves have favoured us with a private view, painted within the last month by Mr. G. Patten, A.R.A., at the palace of Gotha, whither Mr. Patten went for the purpose. It is a half-length, and is in military costume. Of this production, we can justly say that the composition is simple and good, and the expression firm and unaffected; and that we have no doubt that Mr. Lupton, in whose skilful hands it is about to be placed, will produce from it an attractive and popular print.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Panoramic Sketch of Athens. By Mrs. Bracebridge. Taken May 1839. Dalton. SOLD in aid of the funds of the London Benevolent Repository (as similar productions from the same artist-like hand and feeling heart have been for other charitable institutions), this striking *Panoramic Sketch* of the "antique city of Thessaloniki," though claimed by its reviver Hadrian on his Gate, is eminently deserving of public favour. The view is taken from an eminence between the Pnyx and the western face of the Acropolis, and embraces every prominent and interesting feature of Athens. A short introduction specifies what they are, and gives us many classical and historical recollections.

tions connected with them. But unless we could spread out the picture, about 120 inches in length, and nine in breadth, we could furnish no idea of the spirit and effect with which it is executed. All we can do is to recommend it strongly, both for its intrinsic merits and attractions, and for the excellent object to which its liberal produce is devoted. The mountains, crowned with ancient ruins, the monuments of Greece, and the surrounding country, are exceedingly picturesque; and the whole, indeed, very beautiful.

Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, K.B. Painted by J. Hoppner, R.A.; Engraved by W. O. Burgess. Welch and Gwynne.

We doubt whether in the whole course of his long professional life Mr. Hoppner ever painted a more characteristic portrait than that of our illustrious naval hero, which is now in her majesty's collection, and from which Mr. Burgess has executed this faithful and forcible mezzotint print.

The Death of Harold at the Battle of Hastings. Painted by A. Cooper, R.A.; Engraved by W. Bromley. M'Lean.

When we gaze on such subjects, it is impossible not to ask ourselves when human beings will become wise enough no longer to furnish them! Mr. Cooper has here represented, with his usual ability, a variety of the ways in which men inflict death and torture upon another; but we cannot say that the scene is one which it is pleasing to contemplate. Mr. Bromley has engraved the plate with combined spirit and softness.

THE DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—On Wednesday, Mr. Haynes's historical tragedy, *Mary Stuart*, was produced here, to a house crowded in every part. Sad events in the life of this beautiful Unfortunate have often furnished subjects for the drama; but we are not aware of any composition in which the one sanguinary act—the assassination of David Rizzio—has been consecrated to the Tragic Muse. We could hardly have believed it susceptible of sustaining the action of a play of five acts—it is in itself so simple and single; but the author, with the aid of poetry and contemporaneous incident, has wrought out his design with very considerable art and effect. All the scenes in which *Ruthven* (*Scotia*, pronounced *Riven*) appears are to the purpose, and carry on the plot, evidently indicated in the opening scene, to its bloody conclusion. The other portions are, we might say, in a great degree rather accessory than direct; and yet we do not see how they could be dispensed with. The creation of a daughter of *Ruthven* links that fierce man more congenially with human feelings; and her death, though abruptly brought on, is by far the most touching and pathetic circumstance in the tragedy. In our opinion it is only injured by the most impressive description of a dream, by her bereaved father, almost over the corpse of his lost child; which, however fine in itself, is out of time and place where the strongest natural passions must overbear all ornament of speech and figures of imagination. Parents do not think of lilies by the death-bed of their loved offspring, nor does their real grief allow them to draw terrific images of the grim Tyrant, who has robbed them of their dearest treasure. This splended passage before, instead of after, the death of *Katherine*, would be all that could be wished. We would advise its transposition. Speaking, however, of these two characters, we must con-

fess that the most dubious portion of the whole play is, first, the mission of his innocent daughter to be a spy on *Mary's* actions at court; and, secondly, his bringing her to the king to confirm his wavering resolution, by telling the tale of *Mary's* giving *Rizzio* her miniature, as his guerdon, for acting her troubadour in a blameless revel among her ladies and attendants. There is a baseness in this which it is difficult to get over, though Mr. Haynes displays great skill in rendering it as little revolting as possible, and also visits the crime with the deepest severity of poetic justice. The view he has taken of *Mary's* character exposes her to the charge of indiscretion equivalent to moral guiltiness; and she is more arrogant and arbitrary than we like to consider her through the lights of history. Perhaps Mrs. Warner's style, which is more forcible than tender, might add to this effect; and we make the remark, not as objecting to the talents displayed by that lady, but abstractedly to the part not being one of the best fitted for their exercise. A sublime Lady Macbeth might be a very indifferent Cordelia. *Darnley's* portraiture is ably done, and the scene in which it is most exhibited, where he signs the sanction of *Rizzio's* murder at the bidding of *Ruthven*, is an exceedingly good one. *Rizzio* himself is raised somewhat in importance, and, we think, judiciously so; for it is improbable that a confederacy of nobles, with the king in their confidence, would have been formed to do to the death a minion no higher than a captivating musician, who could stand little in the way of their intrigues and ambition. The rest of the *dramatis personae* are as historically represented. With regard to the language, it is not easy to deliver a judgment from merely hearing it recited on the stage; but it appeared to us that there were many fine original thoughts expressed in nervous and beautiful poetry. A few lines which the audience chose to apply politically to present affairs ought to be omitted, as they are not essential to the piece, and can only tend to uproar and confusion. The most notorious occurred where *Ruthven*, speaking of *Rizzio*, says—

"I hate aliens,
As all our noble forefathers have done!"

which led to a tumult of applause and hisses.

We have now only to state that the performance of Macready in *Ruthven* was masterly from first to last. He is roused from his couch of sickness by the inflamed desire to terminate what he deems the disgrace of his country; his feebleness rises into energy; his lofty contempt of *Rizzio* and *Bothwell*, and nearly as much so of the vacillating *Darnley*, is artistically contrasted with his affection for his daughter, which also relieves his general sternness, and his appalling apparition in armour at the last, the consummation of his vengeance, and his death, are all among the most striking, we might say sublime spectacles, ever witnessed or heard on the stage. In one scene alone do we fancy the impersonation of this character may be improved. We allude to that where in full court he taunts *Bothwell* and *Rizzio*, and, in shewing his supreme dislike to them, turns his back upon the queen, and seems to communicate with his fellow-conspirators. *Ruthven*, though rude and angry, ought not to affront his sovereign by this contemptuous conduct; but, after all, the error is merely one of stage grouping, but the acting is altogether so perfect, that we cannot help noticing even this trifling.

Mr. Phelps, in *Darnley*, is rather too locomotive; yet capriciousness and weakness do run

into such uneasy gestures, and with a little softening the part will be sufficiently well played. Of Elton's *Rizzio* we have to declare our approbation throughout, with the exception of the cringing attitude with which he clings to the queen's garments at the end of his career. He declaimed the words with much force and discrimination, and nowhere caused a regret that the character had been assigned to him. Mr. G. Bennett as *Morton*, and Mr. Howe as *George Douglas*, deserve our praise; and the other less prominent male personages were fairly supported by Yarmold, Roberts, Waldran, and others. Of the *Mary* of Mrs. Warner we have already spoken; and we have only to add that *Lady Argyle* was very respectfully performed by Mrs. W. West; and the *Lady Katherine* very sweetly and naturally by Miss E. Montague,—the *Juliet débutante* a week or two ago. The music between the acts, under the direction of Mr. A. Lee, struck us as being particularly appropriate, and it lost nothing under the able leadership of Mr. Eliason. At the conclusion the most unanimous cheering rewarded the efforts of the author and actors; and the former for having produced a noble tragedy, and the latter for having exerted every nerve to do it justice in the representation. As *Macbeth* filled this theatre on Monday, and *Mary Stuart* is likely to fill it for many a night, we end with congratulating the lovers of the drama on their accession to another high and legitimate source for its enjoyment, and the restoration of Drury Lane to its fair rank as a national theatre.

Covent Garden overflows nightly, such is the impulse which has been given to the well-appointed and well-acted drama. *The Clandestine Marriage*, revived in the same admirable manner as *The School for Scandal*, &c. &c. now presents its attractions one night in the week, and goes off with great *éclat*.

The *Adelphi* is equally flourishing with *Jack Sheppard* and its laughable pantomime.

The Musard Concerts.—The delightful overture to "Prometheus" has been produced this week, and is one of the finest things so finely executed at this theatre.

VARIETIES.

M. P. Visconti, French Commissioner of Antiquities at Rome, has addressed a letter to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, giving interesting details of discoveries recently made in that city. It has been found, he states, that the Sacred Island of the Tiber was surrounded by ancient tombs, of which only the basements now remain. They were of two different epochs: the earliest, that of the Antonines; and the most recent, of Alexander Severus. In such of them as the chambers have remained entire, there are still inscriptions fixed in their original places, and several sarcophagi, one of which is in fine preservation, and represents the mythological story of the detection of Achilles in the Island of Scyros. Upon the recommendation of M. Visconti, and under his inspection, the Pope has ordered excavations to be made in the Forum, near the Basilica Giulia. The same letter announces that Prince Odescalchi, brother of the cardinal, has been appointed President of the Roman Academy of Archaeology, in the rooms of the Marquis de Biondi, deceased.—*French Paper*.

A Sketch lately taken at Windsor. (T. M'Lean)—Very much in the style of H.B., though it does not bear his name. This sketch represents the Queen and Prince Albert on horseback as the principal figures, the elder brother of the prince on the right, and Lord

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